

# Church thinks big for Easter production

By William H. Perkins Jr. Editor

When it comes to commemorating Easter each year, Leesburg Church, north of Pelahatchie, proves that size isn't nearly as important as vision.

The rural church, which averages about 210 in Sunday School, annually produces Bow the Knee, the story of a Roman cen-turion who struggles with his role in the torture and crucifixion of Jesus. With dozens of cast members and professional stag-ing that would be the envy of large churches anywhere, Leesburg Church members offer the Easter story production to their community in the hope that many will be reached for Jesus.

"The actor who portrays Jesus is actually put on a cross. He is then taken to the tomb and finally ascends into heaven — or at least 20 feet straight up to the top of our building," said Leesburg Pastor Randall Jackson.

Crowns and banners are presented to him in heaven, according to Jackson. "It is a very visual way of stopping and giving everything back to God," he said.

Jackson said the area around Leesburg Church is seeing a huge of influx of people and residential housing construc-tion, thanks in part to its close proximity to the Jackson metropolitan area and the Ross Barnett Reservoir. As more and more families move into the area, Jackson said, church members are approaching the

potential of the production with increasing seriousness.

"This year, really entered into the production with more and prayer more organiza-tion. We dealt with our convictions, and that preparation helped get us to the point that we were able to let the Holy Spirit move us through the

authority

among us; it has turned into shared vision. God has really blessed Leesburg Church with a lot of great adult leaders," Jackson pointed out.

All that prayer and prepara-tion paid off, as an overflow crowd of 450 or more people attended the presentation in the spacious 12,000 square foot Christian Life Center. Church counselors were standing by after the curtain fell on the onehour-and-20-minute production, to help attendees with any spiritual decisions they were moved to make during the play.

The annual production of Bow the Knee has benefited the church in many other areas of ministry, Jackson said.

POWER OF THE MESSAGE — Allen Moudy portrays Jesus and Chuck King porprogram. trays a Roman centurion in the Leesburg Church production of the play, Bow the "It's not sim- Knee. The church, located north of Pelahatchie, stages the major production each ply a delegation year just before Easter. (Photo courtesy of Leesburg Church)

> "The production is one of the core activities of the church. It brings church members together in ways that last yearround," he said.

> Jackson said the passion behind the production is generated largely by Jeff Jones, the bivocational associate pastor at Leesburg Church. Jones, part owner of Carthage Discount Drugs in Carthage, has served Leesburg for about ten years.

"God gets all the glory, but someone has to champion a program like this, and Jeff Jones is that person at Leesburg Church. Because of his obedience to God, he has done ground breaking work with this production," Jackson stressed.

"Jeff deserves a lot of appreciation for what he's done through the years, but the production still would not have been possible without the raising up and deep com-mitment of lay leadership in the church. Their participa-tion has been breathtaking," the pastor said.

Jackson has some advice for any church that would attempt such a large production: "Don't shun what God gives you to do. There's no reason why a church of any size cannot do this; it can be scaled for the size of the church. it just takes prayer, vision, heart, and the conviction to do it for the glory of the Lord," he said.

# WHAT'S IN THE RECORD

\*\*BXNFMX SOUTHER POOL COT

1 HISTORICA ST 203-3620

0-23-

OC

77 -4

**PUBLISHED SINCE 1877** 

APRIL 4, 2002

**VOL. 126** 

No. 9

Christians targeted

Directions

Letters to the editor

Sunday School lessons

# Crossover St. Louis to offer 'Gateway of Hope'

ST. LOUIS (BP) — Southern Baptists will offer a "Gateway to Hope" June 7-9 as part of Crossover St. Louis, the 13th annual evangelism emphasis con-ducted prior to the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting.

More than 81 local churches in seven associations had committed to participating in the effort as of mid-March, and recruitment is currently underway for hundreds of additional volunteers from other areas.

Benny King, executive director of St. Louis Metro Association, said Crossover St. Louis will kick off a summer-long evangelistic emphasis in the area under the banner of 'Gateway to Hope.'

Some of the highest-profile events dur-ing Crossover will be block parties, in which local churches and outside volunteers offer food, fun, and entertainment in local communities - along with an opportunity for individuals to hear and respond to the gospel. Forty-seven such events have been scheduled for Crossover.

Students from Midwestern Seminary in Kansas City will spearhead block parties in 20 mobile home communities and two high-rise apartment

buildings, according to Bill Curp, director of missions for Jefferson Association.

Other church sponsored events include prayer journeys, door-to-door personal evangelism, and evangelistic sports clinics for area children and youth. Also sched-uled are entertainment-based street evangelism teams, inner-city personal evangelism, a ministry to night-club employees and dancers, and a "Kindness Explosion ministry that will give away bottles of cold water and other items along with a message of the hope found in Christ.

More than 25,000 people have made professions of faith through Crossover efforts since 1989, when messengers attending the annual meeting in Las Vegas first sought a way of making an impact on their host cities with the gospel.

For more information or to request a volunteer assignment with Crossover St. Louis, individuals or groups should contact Doyle Echols via email at dechols@stlbaptists.org, or by telephone at (314) 569-1190, ext. 305.

# One small victory at a time

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK





William H.
Perkins Jr.
Editor

EDITOR William H. Perkins Jr.

ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Tony Martin

EDITORIAL ASSOCIATE Florence Larrimore

LAYOUT/DESIGN Joylin Davis

> ADVERTISING Lennie Young

CIRCULATION MANAGER Brenda Quattlebaum

> BOOKKEEPER Betty Anne Bailey

EDITOR EMERITUS Don McGregor

Baptist Record Advisory Committee:
Grant Arinder, Ridgeland
Al Green Jr., Bay St. Louis
Ken Hester, Pontotoc
Allan Nix, Laurel
Beverly Pyron, Natchez
Michael Weeks, Olive Branch
Heather Cumberland, secretary

Postmaster: Send changes of address to The BAPTIST RECORD, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Send news, communication, and address changes to The Editor, BAPTIST RECORD, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530 (601) 968-3800 Fax: (601) 292-3330 E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org

> VOLUME 126 NUMBER 9 (ISSN-0005-5778)

Published weekly except weeks of July 4 and Christmas by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, 515 Mississippi Street, Jackson, MS 39201. Subscription \$8.35 per year payable in advance. Economy plans available for cooperating Mississippi churches. Periodicals postage paid at Jackson, MS. Member, Association of State Baptist Papers. Deadlines: News items — one calendar week prior to requested publication date. Advertising — two calendar weeks prior to requested publication date.

Pollowing legislation at any level is more often than not a mixed bag of wins and losses, triumphs and failures, and exhilaration and frustration. The complexity of our legislative processes from city hall to the county courthouse to the state and national capitals may seem inscrutable to the average citizen who wants to get involved, but that's no excuse for turning away from our responsibilities in this grand American experiment in self-governance.

One of the most important aspects of our self-governance involves the legislation introduced each year at the state level by the

people we elect to represent us in the Mississippi Legislature. As the "devolution" of power from the federal government to the states continues — and even a casual student of the U.S. Constitution can see that is appropriate — how we govern ourselves on the state level will prove to be pivotal in the coming years.

Some of the most important issues of our time are being increasingly debated and legislated at the state level. We can make a difference in our state, and indirectly in our nation, by getting involved in the work of the Mississippi Legislature and letting our elected officials know our positions on matters of importance that will ultimately

come before them for action.

Among the most important issues in the Legislature each year is the regulation of legalized alcohol. For the better part of 40 years, alcohol has brought nothing but tragedy and destruction to Mississippi. It

should be completely outlawed.

During these 40 years of misery, antialcohol citizens and groups have had little about which to cheer. It has seemed at times that powerful pro-alcohol forces, which range from liquor store owners to restaurant groups, opposed even the simplest efforts to rein in the death and mayhem caused by legalized alcohol.

Victories have been few and far

As a critic, I was once again stymied that the

content of films received little

attention during the past year

from either secular reviewers or those who hold movies up for

prestigious acclaim such as the

It is my contention that not only should the technical and

artistic elements of a movie be

examined, but also the content.

For it is the material that gains a film's rating that says the most

about those making movies and those who go to them.

complex issues in 2001, includ-

ing drug abuse, family neglect,

war, Alzheimer's disease, and

facing one's own mortality.

However, when a film did

deliver the emotional goods

(Gosford Park), it generally

incorporated a great deal of

objectionable material. Most

movies were simply unsuitable

for younger family members, or

first-time dates, or for anyone

weary of the excessive incorpo-

ration of profane language (In

The Bedroom), exploitive sexu-

ality (Moulin Rouge) or desen-

sitizing violence (Training Day).

that out of the five films nomi-

nated for Best Picture Oscars.

Other critics were pleased

Filmmakers addressed many

Academy Awards.

between in the war against alcohol but the 2002 session of the Mississippi Legislature, meeting right now in Jackson, has provided at least a glimmer of hope by reducing the threshold for a Driving Under the Influence charge from .1 to .08 blood alcohol content (BAC).

The importance of this new law, signed last week by Governor Ronnie Musgrove, cannot be overstated. Ask almost any state trooper, deputy sheriff, or city police officer, and they'll tell you that most people are well beyond impairment when they drive a a motor vehicle at the .1 BAC level.

Getting impaired drivers off the road should be important to all of us. After all, most of us drive a vehicle at some point, and there are very few of us alive today who have not been directly

affected by drunk driving. It should be of even more importance to Baptists because of our very public stance against the consumption of alcohol anywhere at any time.

As a matter of fact, this legislation ultimately came about in part because of the efforts of Baptists who felt sufficiently passionate about the issue to keep bringing it before the Legislature every year.

Neither Baptists nor any other group will always get everything they want from elected officials, but in the mixed bag from the 2002 legislative session, we can be grateful for at least this one small victory against such an evil force in our midst.

We have plenty of occasions to criticize our elected officials, but this time they did something right. Find out how your legislators voted on the .08 law and if they voted

pe of affirmatively, commend them for saving countless lives and families. You can also

I SEE THAT THE DRUNK DRIVER IN AMERICA IS IN FOR

A SOBERING SURPRISE!

affirmatively, commend them for saving countless lives and families. You can also let them know that you'll continue to be interested in their future votes on alcohol and other moral issues facing our state.

If your legislators didn't vote in favor of the .08 law, they need to know how you feel about that, too — but they won't know unless you get involved enough to tell them.

Editor's note: A commendation is also in order for Governor Ronnie Musgrove, who on March 28 vetoed House Bill 1171. The bill would have permitted on-premises brew pubs, including casino brew pubs, to shower patrons with free samples of their alcoholic products and also would have allowed the brew pubs to raise by 25% the alcohol content of their homemade concoctions.

# **GUEST OPINION:**



# Judge Oscars on content, as well

By Philip Boatwright Thousand Oaks, Clalifornia

only two were rated R. True, there were fewer R-rated films this past year. Out of 739 films rated last year, 490 received an R from the Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA). That's down from 528 R-rated films the previous year.

What observers fail to recognize, however, is the fact that the PG-13 rating has become more accepting of material once deemed suitable only for R-rated films.

Example: In years past, Nicole Kidman's pushing sensuality to the limit in Moulin Rouge would no doubt have garnered an R rating. It contained titillating, bawdy dance routines and an overall erotic feel with doses of perversity and partial nudity.

It's not just the residents of

Tinseltown who have become more tolerant of a film's edginess, its profane use of God's name, or the numbing amount of crudity.

So, too, have we.

The Lord of Rings is a prime example. I understand that scholars of Tolkien's mythic anthology find ethereal messages contained in the books, as if Tolkien was providing Christianity in code. I'll grant that the film version has a good-versus-evil theme, and it reveals how good men can be tempted by evil.

Sadly, however, I found the allegories overshadowed by one deafening battle after another, plus one gruesome and very frightening-looking ghoul after another. Other than the recent batch of war-themed releases, The Lord of the Rings is one of

the most violent films I've seen in quite some time.

Granted, there's not much blood in the movie, but there is torture, duels to the death, main characters are killed, nightmarish sequences pop up every time someone puts that ring on, and there are hordes of demonic-looking villains bent on eliminating our little band of wood imps. One such evil group looked like they could scare off the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse. Weren't your children spooked? Well, maybe we have evolved into beings that can process any amount of abuse Hollywood puts before our eyes, but is that what our Creator intended for us?

Certainly, there were some good films this past year, but very few great films. I kept hoping for another Lawrence of Arabia or Key Largo. Thank goodness for video, because the best film I saw this past year was 1952's The Quiet Man—and you know what? That Academy Award nominee lost to The Greatest Show On Earth.

Believe me, it wasn't!

Boatwright is an entertainment critic and regular columnist for Baptist Press.

# No ransom paid, missionary agency reports

SANFORD, Fla. (BP) — New Tribes Mission Tribes (NTM) has issued a news release denying "any participa-tion in attempts to pay ransom or raise money for ransom" for the release of missionaries Martin and Gracia Burnham who were kidnapped in the Philippines on May 27, 2001.

The missions

agency, in its March 26 news release, said a "U.S. news network," which it did not identify, had reported that the U.S. government had facilitated a ransom payment to the Osama bin Laden-relat-ed Abu Sayyaf Group in the Asian country.

Of the news report, NTM noted that "no source is cited and they have failed to verify this with the U.S. government. If such a payment was made, it was done without our consent or knowledge."

NTM acknowledged there has been a shift in U.S. policy on ransom payments, but the missions agency stated that it will continue its longstanding "no ransom" position "for a



number of reasons, none of which has to do with the value we place on our missionaries.

"Paying ransom only increases the risk of future kidnappings. As missionaries, the nature of our work makes us vulnerable to kidnappings," NTM said. "Therefore, major. mission organizations have agreed to establish a no ransom position in order to send the message that it is not profitable to kidnap missionaries." The interdenominational missions agency specializes in planting indigenous churches among unevangelized people groups in remote areas around the world.

Since the Burnhams were missions kidnapped, the

agency said "there have been numerunverified and unsubstantiated reports originating from unreliable news

sources in the Philippines." NTM contin-ued, "Increased fighting between the Philippine mil-itary and the kidnappers has also been reported in the last several days. Amid these reports have come rumors of sight-

ings and other indications of the presence of the hostages, but these have not been verified.

"Such information under-scores the danger that the Burnhams and their fellow hostage, Filipina nurse Deborah Yap, are in," the missions agency said. "These reports and the danger are also very difficult for the Burnhams' families. Please continue to pray for God's peace and strength in the midst of this storm.

"Last weekend Martin and Gracia's oldest children, Jeffrey and Mindy, made a plea for their release," the news release recounted. "This was aired on Radio Mindanao. The children communicated their love to their parents and urged the captors to free their mom and dad."

Listing several requests, NTM urged: prayer

• "Please pray that the Burnhams and Ms. Yap will be released soon. Pray for their health and safety, and for them to remain confident and encouraged in the Lord."

 "Pray that the kidnappers" hearts will be softened to God's

message of salvation."
• Pray for government leaders of the Philippines and the United States and their troops.

 "Above all, pray for God's will to be done and his name to be glorified."
Martin, 42, and Gracia, 43,

from Kansas, were kidnapped by the Abu Sayyaf Group

from a resort off the island of Palawan in the Philippines. Martin grew up in the Philippines, where his par-ents have been missionaries for more than 32 years. The Burnhams have been members of NTM since 1985.

NTM's website www.ntm.org; e-mail updates about the Burnhams can be received by sending an e-mail to ntm-burnhams-subscribe @yahoogroups.com. Earlier this year, NTM

spokesperson Scott Ross said the missions agency had interviewed many of the hostages freed by the terrorists and said reports of the Burnhams' "condition and situation were very dramatic and graphic," including their "exposure to the elements, lack of hygiene and health care, and need for adequate nourishment."



MISSISSIPP

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE



Last November a video clip of the Burnhams was released by a Philippine television sta-tion which, showed considerable weight loss by Martin, and the couple's emotional fatigue.

A letter from Martin stated, "[We] are very weary, but God has protected our health and [we] have not suffered major sickness or injury." The couple said food is often scarce, with little protein.

Sources in the Philippines tell Baptist Press that other international aid workers and missionaries have been on a "heightened state of alert" just as the U.S. population has been since Sept. 11.

By varying their travel routes and other logistical routines, these workers hope to avoid being kidnapped by any terrorist group. Some news agencies report that missionaries carry weapons for protection.

**PUBLISHED SINCE 1877** 

APRIL 4, 2002 **VOL. 126** No. 9

# Looking back

Mississippi College officials seek to explain the closing of Clarke College in Newton to faculty and students on March 25. Clarke students were told in a letter last summer that accreditation had been lost from the Association of Colleges and Schools

Jackson-based Mississippi Baptist Seminary celebrates its 40th anniversary. The seminary, which operates 22 centers in every section of the state, is owned by National and Southern Baptists in Mississippi, and exists primarily to offer theological education to black ministers and lay persons.

#### 50 years ago

A letter written to The Baptist Record and signed "An Exiled Mississippian," states: "I dont always agree with everything you have in the Record, but... I have never seen anything from your pen or in the Record that even smelled like Modernism."

# Public trial demanded

WUHAN, China (BP) — A Chinese Christian leader who barely excaped execution in January wants his retrial to be conducted in public this time, according to sources close to the case. Gong Shengliang, 46, leader of the South China Church, was sentenced to death after a secret trial in December before a court in Wuhan, China. The charges: rape and operating an "evil cult to undermine law enforcement." Gong's supporters contend the Chinese government is using brutal to ture, false charges, and sham trials to crack down on 16 "sects" the government has decided to suppress. The barned accts include the controversial Falun Gong meditation movement, but also more than 10 evangelical Christian house church networks — including Gong's South China Church.

Hours before Gong's scheduled execution in January, U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell personally appealed to Chinese President Jiang Zemin on Gong's behalt. Gong and co-defendant Li Ying, also sentenced to death with a two-year delay, were granted a reprieve and retrial. Also granted retrial were 14 other members of the group, who had received prison terms ranging from two to 20 years. This time, the Christians reportedly have a 15-member Chinese defense team. They will be convicted again, sources expect, since guilty verdicts usually are a foregone conclusion in Chinese courts, but their defenders hope they will receive reduced prison terms.

Visitors allowed to see Gong in prison in early March said the cuffs on his wrists and legs "were so tight, and had been on so long, that you could see bones," a source reported. "His whole face was bruised and swollen, and his mouth and lips were broken. He was in tremendous hunger." Female church

whole face was bruised and swollen, and his mouth and lips were broken. He was in tremendous hunger." Female church members who signed statements that they were sexually assaulted by Gong were tortured and psychologically traumatized while in custody, the source added. "That accusation is completely false," he said. "These girls are so confused they don't even know their own names, and the most private parts of their bodies are blistered and bloody; the skin has been burned away with electric batons." Several recanted their testimony against Gong after the first trial and claimed they had been pressured to accuse him, according to letters sent to the West. The South China Church, started by Gong more than a decade ago in Hubei province, is relatively small compared to other Christian house church groups that count millions of followers each. The South China Church reportedly has about 100,000 believers in 10 provinces.

# AB announces merging of key ministries

DALLAS (BP) - The Southern Baptist Convention's Annuity Board (AB) will combine two key ministries for needy retirees, the Supplemental Assistance and Adopt An Annuitant programs, effective April 1. The unified relief program will modify the eligibility guidelines to allow more retirees to qualify for benefits, board officials said in their

March 27 announcement.
Additionally, many Adopt
An Annuitant recipients will now qualify for more than twice the benefit they have been receiving. Formerly, quali-fied individuals or couples could receive \$75 a month through the Adopt An Annuitant program. The Supplemental Assistance program primarily targeted more needy individuals and provided \$200 per month for individuals and \$265 for married couples.

Under the new combined program, all qualifying persons may receive \$200 if single or \$265 if married. About 3,000 individuals or couples are currently receiving assistance each month.

For more information about the Adopt An Annuitant ministry and how to get involved, call the Annuity Board at (800) 262-0511 or send e-mail requests to adopt@absbc.org.

Pickering: Faith not weakened by rejection WASHINGTON (BP) — His

"faith has not been weakened," and he will not withdraw his name as a nominee for a feder-

al appeals court position, U.S. District Judge Charles Pickering of Laurel says.

10 The Democrats on the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee voted against sending Pickering's nomination to the Senate floor. The 10-9 vote came after organizations such as People for the American Way, NAACP the

and the National Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League attacked the judge's record on civil rights, as well as his views on abortion rights and church-state separation. Supporters of his confirmation, however, charged the opposition campaign was based on distortions of Pickering's judicial record, his religion, and his stance on abortion.

The White House has asked Pickering not to remove his name from consideration for the Fifth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, said his son, U.S. Congressman Chip Pickering (R-Miss).

Because of his status as a judicial nominee, Charles Pickering declined an interview request from Baptist Press but

provided a written statement prepared after the committee action. "Although I

am disappointed, I am in good spirits," Charles Pickering said in the March 14 statement. "I will not let what has happened to me this during process embitter me or shape the balance of my life. Life is too precious.

"I am extremely disturbed that judicial confirmation has degenerated into such a bitter and mean-spirited process. I sincerely hope that no other nominee has to go through what has happened to me. The price of public service should not be so high.

"I am touched and humbled that those who know me best, my friends and neighbors in Mississippi, both African-American and white, both Democrat and Republican, have defended my record in such a gracious and magnanimous way," he said.

Charles Pickering is a mem-ber of First Church, Laurel, and served two years in the mid-1980s as president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

He was a member of the Peace Committee that was established in 1985 to address issues related to the controversy at that time in the Southern Baptist Convention.

Meanwhile, in Pickering's mind, the irony was inescapable as he witnessed the U.S. Judiciary Senate Committee reject his father's nomination for a federal appeals court judgeship.

The reality is, not one member on that com-

mittee risked his life and career for the voting rights of African Americans, said Chip Pickering. "My father's life was threatened. His family's safety was threatened. He lost his next political race.

"Not one member of that committee ... has demonstrated the commitment to bring better race relations

and racial reconciliation to their communities and state [that] my

Chip Pickering was a youth worker and language student with the SBC International Mission Board in communistcontrolled Hungary for 16 months in 1987 and 88.

Chip Pickering sat through the four hours of discussion and voting by the committee on the day his father was rejected.

"It was very difficult to sit there and hear distortions, mischaracterizations, just com-pletely and simply false statements concerning my father and his record," Chip Pickering said in an interview with Baptist Press. "That part was difficult. At the same time, the

> statements of support, the statements that clarified the record and defended both his qualifications and his character were affirming.
> "I think the

real basis for opposition to my father came from the abortion groups and the People for the American Way," Chip Pickering said. "They are, and

have demonstrated a record of being, in opposition to nominees who have strong religious backgrounds."



**Charles Pickering** 

#### Christians targeted, former Pakistan pastor says NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — The former church was strangely lax," Killgore told while awaiting any word of her daughter's pastor of the Protestant International Baptist Press. "After the events of Sept. 11, the Church (PIC) in Islamabad, Pakistan, said security around PIC had been beefed up." The church is located next to the Chinese embassy and a local police station. he believes Islamic militants targeted the military campaign against the Taliban. Christian congregation for a deadly grenade attack on March 17.

"I do believe evangelical Christians were targeted," said Jim Killgore, former PIC pastor. Five worshipers were killed and more than 45 injured, including some Southern Baptists, when a terrorist hurled two grenades into the sanctuary during a worship service.

Killgore, president and chief executive officer of Advancing Churches in Missions Commitment, served as pastor of PIC for

five years. He previously served as missions pastor at the First Church, Atlanta, from 1981-85.

"It's important to note the distinction between fundamentalists and Muslims," he said. "The vast majority of Muslims will look at what happened and decry it. However, Christians, by Pakistan's constitution, do not have the same rights as Muslims. It's an Islamic republic and Muslims win."

In the hours following the blast, Killgore said he received numerous e-mails and telephone messages

noticed that security at the

Killgore, 45, said church members are still "very much in shock."

"People are dealing with post-traumatic stress," he said. "One... couple told me they are afraid to sleep. They still smell the smoke, hear the explosion, and see the blood."

Killgore learned of the attack as he was preparing to attend church with his wife, Grace, and their daughter, Kristen.
"It riveted our attention," Killgore said.

"We saw the pictures and knew the faces of the people coming out of the church. We

dropped to our knees to pray."
PIC has an active role in the community, reaching out to refugees and providing clothing and feeding ministries.

"The purpose of the church was to reach people," he said. "There were people in church that day who were nonbelievers and a number of the injured were non believers."

Danny Mulkey worshiped for more than two months at the PIC while waiting for American foreign aid workers Dayna Curry and Heather Mercer to be set free from their captivity in neighboring Afghanistan.
"Some of those folks I spent quite a bit of

time with," Mulkey said. He was dispatched to Pakistan last September by Antioch Community Church in Waco, Texas, where he is associate pastor and from which Curry and Mercer ventured out to minister among the Afghan people.

Curry's mother, Nancy Cassell of Franklin, Tenn., also worshiped each week at the PIC release by the Taliban and later awaiting word of her daughter's safety amid the U.S.

Chip Pickering

Among the rush of concerns Mulkey felt after hearing of the attack was the key Pakistani lay leader of the church, who suffered several leg injuries and may face amputations.

The man is "a very strong believer... a very compassionate person ... genuinely gracious," who holds the academic credentials of a Ph.D. in chemistry and teaches at a local university, Mulkey said.

"Pray for the folks there. They're precious people... very pure-hearted," he said. After a time of grief and regrouping, he pre-dicted, "I know that they'll keep going."

The number of worshipers ranged from 35-60 at the church, and Mulkey often preached on Sundays and led communion from early last September until nearly Thanksgiving, because the previous pastor along with many members who were in diplomatic or religious work had left the country amid rising terrorist attacks on New York City and Washington, D.C.

The church owns its own building and has a strong ministry to the poor, Mulkey said, reflecting that the last Sunday he preached there was an international day of prayer for the persecuted church.

Former pastor Killgore said he believes the church will continue that mission.

"They were singing the song, 'This is Holy Ground' when the attack happened," he said. "I believe they will continue to be a people of faith and will rebuild."



TERRORIST CARNAGE — Pakastani offi- from church members who cials walk through debris left after a terrorist witnessed the attack. hurled a grenade into the sanctuary of "That morning, several Protestant International Church in Islamabad, church members said they (Photo by Agence France-Presse)

S-T-O-P. Four letters, one syllable, easy to read, and equally easy to understand — S-T-O-P. You will find the word printed on a red, octagon shaped sign and staked on corners everywhere. Many places not only have the STOP signs, but they also have the advanced warning signs that announce, "STOP AHEAD."

The other day I was out for a beautiful, spring morning walk and came to a three-way stop area. Before I arrived on the scene, I watched as a car came up to the stop sign, barely put on the brakes, maybe slowed down to about 40 mph, and then whipped right on through. Another one, another one, and another one - same thing each time. So, I started counting one dozen, two dozen, and counting. Not one person even

came close to stopping.
Young and old, men and women, it didn't matter. None of them stopped. Over half of the vehicles had children as passengers, but not one car ever stopped. I wanted to wave them down and ask these folks how they would feel if by running the stop sign they would happen to hit a little child, or a senior adult for that matter, or another car running the stop sign in the other direction. Of course, I did not stop them and wondered if it would have done any good if I had.

Stop signs are in this world for our good as well as the good of others, and not obeying them will lead ultimately tragedies. Sure, we've all slipped through stop signs without coming to a complete stop and occasionally we may even run one because we didn't see it, but if you keep up that practice you can mark it down at some point, somewhere down the line, there will probably be a collision.

You would think that many of us think that the state is trying to do us wrong, harm us, and inhibit us by putting up these "good-for-nothing" stop signs. No, the truth is that they are trying to help us, bless us, protect us, and we don't pay attention to it.

Just recently I listened to a man who was complaining about the Ten Commandments. He was making a big deal out of the fact that most of them were negative. They said, "Don't ... and "Thou shalt not ... " - they were stop signs.

So, like the sign at the threeway stop, God posts stop signs in our lives to prevent us from crashing. We do not have to pay attention to them. We can go right on and do whatever we choose. It may even appear, for a while, that we get by with it. One day we will run the stop signs of life one more time and do severe damage to ourselves and possibly somebody else. Then, we will wonder why "God let this happen to me." He puts up a sign on every corner of our lives warning us. We



# Directi

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

choose to ignore and ease on down the road doing what we want to do.

I remember, many years ago, we went to Yellowstone National Park out in Wyoming. We went to see the geyser, Old Faithful, but we also saw a number of other natural phenomena in that area that I knew nothing about. There were mud pots, steaming holes in the ground, and there was water - hot, steaming, boiling water bubbling up out of the ground into a stream. They had walkways across these ponds of water and signs posted all around — "Do Not Touch!" I had never seen anything like it in my life. I asked Shirley, "Do you think that water is really hot?" She thought it was because it appeared to be almost boiling and steam was rising up, but I wasn't convinced. In spite of her view of the matter, and in spite of the signs that were posted around, I knelt down, reached over, and stuck my fingers in the water to see if it was hot. Guess what - it was!

You can rest assured that when God said, "Do not," and "Thou shalt not," — he was not just trying to keep you from doing something enjoyable, nor was he trying to keep you from having your way about things. He was protecting you and me and he was protecting others from us. We are strange and fickle people. We may not stop at the stop signs of life, but let's suppose that someone went around and took all the signs down and without any guide or restraint, we would start crashing into each other and damaging one another.

Do you suppose that there would be an outcry? Do you think that somebody would think about bringing a lawsuit because there was no guide for them to follow?

It needs to be understood, though, that there are many different kinds of "stoppers." You have seen them and you may have even been one.

 There is the "occasional" stopper. This is the person who is controlled by the circumstances around him or her more than they are by the signage and caution that is before them that says STOP. If the pressures of time or urgency are major, they may slow but they probably will not stop.

Concerning the stop laws of God, there are many who fol-low this pattern. In the last few months I have heard of a halfdozen people whose lives were marred and homes were ruined because "it was only a one-time fling." One time can destroy. A few years ago a major

beer advertiser came out with a catchy ad that said, "Know when to say when." The implication of the ad was that you could, and in their estimation, should occasionally drink some. You just need to know when to stop - don't go too far.
The ad was partially correct.
The only problem was that it should have said, "The only absolute, positive time to say "no" is before you start." If no one ever took the first drink there would be no alcoholics! If no one just experimented the first-time with sexual involvement outside of marriage, there would be no children with illegitimate parents! If you do not run the stop sign the first time, you will not get hit the tenth time!

· Then there is what I call the "official" stopper. This is the person who watches for the police more than they watch for the road signs. They see nothing wrong with taking advantage of the directions as long as some local law enforcement is not hiding behind a bush waiting to catch them. Whether with God, or mom and dad, or the boss, they tend to go through life playing a lit-tle game of "catch me if you can," and they spend a lot of time watching, maneuvering, manipulating things around them when it would be a whole lot easier to just do what the stop sign says.

· Then, of course, there is the "obedient" stopper. This person usually has matured in life to the point where he or she realizes that neither the law, nor God, nor the caring authorities in their life, are out to get them. No, the opposite is true! They are out to care for, protect, guide, and help them to get to their best.

Today, for many of us, maybe a good place to start is to S-T-O-P.

# Texas pastor picked for TV Baptist Hour

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) Jack Graham, pastor of Prestonwood Church in suburban Dallas and a candidate for president of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC), has been named as the new speaker for FamilyNet Television's The Baptist Hour

Television's The Baptist Hour program, effective April 4.

The weekly show for the past 11 years has featured frank Pollard, who retired in December as pastor of First Church, Jackson, and his related broadcast ministry. First Church, Jackson, will continue a weekly program on FamilyNet called Victory In lesus.

Pollard's preaching role on the radio version of The Baptist Hour has been assumed by Robert E. Reccord, president of the North American Mission Board in Atlanta.

The Baptist Hour airs on **FamilyNet** Television Thursdays at 7 a.m. and Sundays at 2 and 8 p.m. ET. A Internet website, www.baptisthour.com, will feature a streaming-audio version of the radio program, links, and other resources.

# '20s SWBTS grad still praising Lord at age 99

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — He's older than his seminary alma mater. In fact, when Southwestern Seminary began in 1908, Ray Duckworth was already a young boy. With his 100th birthday on April 2, Duckworth can look back at how his life and the seminary's have intertwined throughout much of the 20th century.

Duckworth, who earned a diploma in religious education in 1925 and a bachelor of sacred music in 1931, answered God's call to ministry at Texas Baptists' Palacios Baptist Encampment in the early 1920s during the Southern Baptist Convention's \$75 million fundraising campaign, "Calling Out the Called." He had no inclination to go to seminary until a Southwestern student came to First Church in Beaumont, Texas, where Duckworth told the student he didn't know what to do about his call. The student told him to come to seminary "to find out what the Lord wants you to do."

In 1923 Duckworth enrolled Southwestern's school of religious education. His professors included T.B. Maston, J.M. Price, and L.R. Scarborough. Returning to the campus for the first time nearly 80 years later,

Duckworth admitted to being impressed.
"I'm amazed. I'm astonished. I'm lost. I just can't believe it," he said.

Duckworth's classmates included a "very intense" Robert Naylor, who 30 years later became the seminary's fifth president.

seminary was regarding interaction between male and female students. Women had to be escorted to Fort Worth Hall for meals. Men could visit female stu-

dents just one evening a week.

There was no Recreation Aerobics
Center, just volleyball courts the students lined themselves with lime, and there was no manicured lawn or shrubbery. When the

man in the boiler room didn't make enough steam, heat couldn't make it to third-floor dorm rooms.

Duckworth recalled riding a train to Abilene for one of the first big Baptist Student Union meet-Baptist ings in Texas "to try to get college people interested in the in the Lord's work. During the trip we went down and shook hands and introduced ourselves to everyone on the train," he said.

On a tour of campus, Duckworth did

Duckworth recalled how careful the he helped construction crews build. He minary was regarding interaction also did not recognize much of the city around the campus.

> There were streetcars when I was in school, and the seminary was the terminal. They had to turn around and go back. That's all we had. You had to catch it here and go to the steel mills, and then you had to catch another one and go to town," he recalled.



not recognize SINGERS MEET — In this undated photo, Ray Duckworth (right) Cowden Hall, the talks with George Beverly Shea (center) and Ray Floyd, minister of music school building music at First Church, Windermere, near Orlando, Fla. (BP photo)

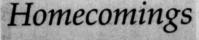
# NAMES IN THE NEWS

# Pressler to be nominated for SBC post

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) -Retired Texas appeals court judge Paul Pressler will be nominated for first vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) during the SBC's annual meeting in St. Louis.

Pressler, a leader in the conservative resurgence that returned the SBC to its Biblebased roots, will be nominated by Richard Land, president of the SBC's Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission.

Pressler is a native of Houston where he lives with his wife of more than 40 years. They have three children and seven grandchildren.



Bond Church, Neshoba County: April 28; 11 a.m.; Mike Smith, message.

**Kreole Avenue, Moss Point:** April 14; worship, 10:45; dinner on the grounds; Paradise to sing following lunch; Joe Blackwell will deliver the morning message.



Spence, Dunn, and Nations

Shivers Church, Shivers, ordained John Spence and Jimmy Nations as deacons on March 3. The church has recently called Randy Dunn of McComb as pastor. Pictured (from left) are Spence, Dunn, and Nations.

Enon Church, Batesville, recently held deacon ordination services for William Thomas Hudson, David L. Colson, Albert "Bubba" Gray, and Jefferson Burl Pollock. Pictured (from left) are Hudson; Colson; James E. Clutter, pastor; Gray; and Pollock.



Hudson, Colson, Clutter, Gray, and Pollock

First Church, Vancleave, held a commissioning service and farewell reception on Feb. 3 for Jeff Smith, minister of education, and his wife Judy, as they leave for foreign mission service. Pictured (from left) are Jeff, Nolan, Judy, Lydia, and Leah Smith.

Faustino (Tino) Trevino was ordained to the ministry on Feb. 23 at Calvary Chapel, Parchman. He serves Hispanic missions at Sunflower, a mission of Calvary, Parchman, and the Primera Mision Bautista de Panola of Batesville, sponsored by the Sardis Lake Church. Trevino surrendered to the ministry in 1999 and attends seminary extension Batesville. Pictured (from left) are David Alexander, language missions specialist for Mississippi Baptist Convention Board and pastor of Hispanic



invites your indication of interest to: FIRST MORTGAGE CHURCH BONDS EARN UP TO: 9%

These bonds may be placed in a self-directed IRA. Transfers and rollovers accepted, in most cases.

**Interest Payable Quarterly** This announcement is neither an offer to sell nor a solicitation of an offer to buy. All offers

are made by propectus only. 5408-A Bell • Amarillo TX 79109

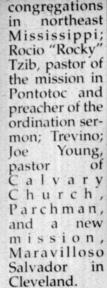
Member NASD, SIPC

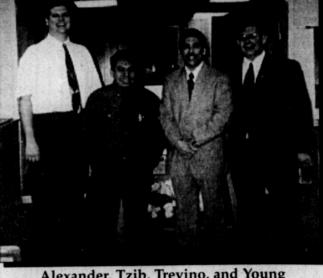
For more complete information about bond issues, obtain a prospectus which describes all of the particulars of the undertaking. Read it carefully before you invest or send money. All bonds are offered at face value, subject to availability.

**CALL OR RETURN THIS TO:** 

**Martin Northern** PO Box 1302 501-316-3100 Benton, AR 72018-1302 Fax 501-316-3110

Please send me information on the First Mortage Church Bonds currently being offered by Great Nation Investment Corp.





Alexander, Tzib, Trevino, and Young



Juda Roberts was installed and Dorman Dansby was ordained as deacons at Salem Church, Raymond. A reception was held in fellowship hall following the service. Pictured (from left) are Roberts; Rusty Bird, pastor; and Dansby.



The Smiths



ALL SIZES SALES AND RENTALS

# **CHURCH BUSES**

**#1 MANUFACTURER** COMPETITIVE PRICING

SOUTHEASTERN BUS CO.

CLINTON, MS 1-800-423-9826 1-601-924-1982



What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

# HOUSE OPS.

*Matthew 10:27 NAS* 

April 4, 2002

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.

# Crusader Crusader Day 2.0.0.2

Central Hills Baptist Retreat

April 20, 2002 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Cost: \$4

Bring a sack lunch. (Drink will be provided.)

Register Early! DEADLINE: APRIL 12
Come and meet our missionaries

For more info, call Men's Ministry Department, 1 (800) 748-1651 or in Jackson, (601) 292-3335.



Highland Baptist Church Vicksburg Monday, April 29

First Baptist Church Batesville Tuesday, April 30

Featured Presenters: Bill Hardin & Bill Clark

For more info, call the Church Administration - Pastoral Ministries Department at 1 (800) 748-1651 or in Jackson, (601) 292-3305, or E-mail kmcdonnell@mbcb.org

# SISTERS WHO CARE

RETREAT
MAY 24-27, 2002
PATTERSON PLACE LODGE
CAMP GARAYWA

Join us and the women of Seventh Baptist Church, Baltimore, Md., for this celebration experience!

- Witnessing Helps
  - Music
  - Bible Study
  - Soul Stirring
  - And more!

# SISTERS WHO CARE RETREAT

REGISTRATION FORM

Total P.P. lodging enclosed =

Meals: (with or without lodging)

\_\_\_\_ @ \$7 Dinner (each) =
\_\_\_\_ @ \$5 Breakfast (each) =
\_\_\_\_ @ \$6 Lunch (each) =
\_\_\_\_ Total meals =
\_\_\_\_ Total lodging =
\_\_\_\_ May 17

MAIL TO: WMU - SISTERS, PO BOX 530, JACKSON MS 39205-0530

Total amount enclosed: \$

## STATE SENIOR ADULT LEADERSHIP LAB

Reaching and Ministering to Younger Seniors

FBC, Vicksburg, 601-636-2493 Tuesday, April 30, 2002 9 a.m.-4 p.m. \$5 payable at registration



Cliff Harris

Cliff Harris, Christian Action Commission, Dallas, Tex. Music: Becky Brown, Utica, Miss.

9:00 a.m.	Registration	
9:30 a.m.	Session IGlenn Shows, MBCB	
	MusicBecky Brown	
	"Combining Younger Seniors In Ministry"Cliff Harris	
10:30 a.m.	BreakRefreshments provided by	
	Mississippi Baptist Foundation	
11:00 a.m.	Session II	
	MusicBecky Brown	
	Mission IdeasToni Wimberely, NOBTS, New Orleans	
	"How to Minister to Younger Seniors"	
12:00 p.m.	LunchLunch is on your own	
1:30 p.m.	Session III	
	Disco Duck	
	Minister with Senior Adults, FBC, West Monroe, La.	
	Resources for Younger SeniorsGlenn Shows, MBCB	
2:30 p.m.	Session IV	
	MusicBecky Brown	
	"Christian Ethics on Death" Cliff Harris, Dallas	
3:30 p.m A		

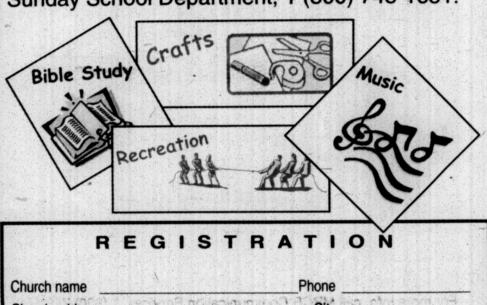
#### DISPLAYS • BOOKSTORE • HANDOUTS

For more info contact:

Glenn Shows, Discipleship and Family Ministry, (601) 292-3373 or 1 (800) 748-1651



Cost is only \$12 per person. A preregistration fee of \$5 is necessary by May 1, 2002. The balance will be due at registration. One adult counselor for every five participants of the same sex is required. For additional information, contact the Sunday School Department, 1 (800) 748-1651.



Church name Phone Church address City Person completing form Phone Total # attending Total preregistration fee enclosed \$

Please mail to: Sunday School Department PO Box 530, Jackson MS 39205



# International Missions Conference Celebrating our Emeritus Missionaries

Ridgecrest, N.C. July 27 - August 2, 2002

Bible Study Leader: Robertson McQuilkin

Mississippi WMU is sponsoring a bus trip to the last International Missions Conference being held at the LifeWay Ridgecrest Conference Center in North Carolina. Our bus will depart from Camp Garaywa on July 26 and return on August 3.

Cost: \$605 (estimate)

Cost details are on registration form which is available from the Mississippi WMU Office at 1 (800) 748-1651, ext. 316 or E-mail: nmason@mbcb.org to request a form. A deposit of \$75 is due by May 24, 2002. Final payments, cancellations, and substitutions are due by June 18, 2002.

You can find more information and a registration form under EVENTS on the Mississippi Baptist Web site: www.MBCB.org.

We're loading up the bus...are you going to be on it???



# REGISTRATION

COPY AND FILL IN THIS FORM FOR EACH PERSON ATTENDING WTM CONFERENCE

#### **MBIB WORKSHOP**

MAY 3-4, 2002 . Colonial Heights Baptist Church, Jackson

ameddress	City	State Zip
fice Phone	Home Phone	
I need a reservation for (#):	All activities on Friday and Saturday	\$25 enclosed
Theed a reservation for (#).	All activities with group of four or more	\$20 each enclosed
	Friday Awards Banquet only	\$15 enclosed
	Saturday Workshop only	\$15 enclosed

Please mark the workshops you will attend. This information is needed by registration deadlines because workshops will be limited to a certain number of people. Every effort will be made to accommodate any adjustments.

#### 9:30 A.M. CONFERENCES (mark one)

- ☐ "Nuts and Bolts" of Camera Operation
- ☐ The Ministry of Media and What's New
- ☐ Sound Advice
- ☐ How to Get Started on the Web

#### 1:30 P.M. CONFERENCES (mark one)

- ☐ Sound Advice
- ☐ Advanced Web Site Design
- □ Creative Production

Reservation Deadline is April 22, 2002 • Full refunds prior to April 22, 2002. No refund after that date.

Make checks payable to: Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

Mail to: Ian Richardson, WTM, PO Box 530, Jackson MS 39205-0530

## AWARDS BANQUET SPEAKER, MAGGIE WADE, CO-ANCHOR, WLBT

For more info, call MBCB Communication Services, 1 (800) 748-1651 or in Jackson (601) 292-3378.

# The Great Expedition!



# Associational LeadershipTraining

# Special Guest: Barbara Joiner

May 17 - 18, 2002 Camp Garaywa

For more information on WMU leadership training please contact the state WMU office at 1 (800) 748-1651, or in Jackson (601) 292-3323, or E-mail tanderson@mbcb.org.



APRIL 22. 23 and 25 • 2002

Learn about the different outreach tools that are available for your church!

April 22 Longview Heights BC

Olive Branch

April 23 First BC April 25
Main Street BC
Hattlesburg

All conferences are from 7-9 p.m. and will feature Round Robin sessions covering:

Starkville

#### **Target Audience:**

<u>Church Leadership</u>: pastors, associate pastors, ministers of education, Sunday School directors, Discipleship Training directors, outreach and evangelism directors

Association Leadership: associational missions directors, evangelism directors, Sunday School directors, Discipleship Training directors

No Registration . No Cost . No Child Care

For more information, contact
John Clendinning, Sunday School Department
Phone: 1 (800) 748-1651 or (601) 968-3800 in Jackson
E-mail: jclendinning@mbcb.org



For more information, confact the MBCB Church Music Department at 1 (800) 748-1651 or in Jackson, (601) 292-3267.

Worship Service

April 21 Emmanuel BC Grenada 6 p.m.



For more info contact: Harvey Ellis Discipleship and Family Ministry (601) 292-3286 or 1 (800) 748-1651 Super Summer 2002

July 15-19

Mississippi College

# Pray this day for ...

# April 5-18, 2002

Prayer Ministry Office • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone (601) 292-3304 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1 (800) 787-7729 (PRAY)

If you believe you will receive, if you doubt you will do without.

"If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer. Matthew 21:22

For: (1) Mississippi Missions Fest 2002, Mississippi Delta (WMU); (2) Hainan, China, has over 2,401,000 children under age 15. Pray for God's unselfish love to reach these young ones.

For: (1) Cooperative Program

Praise God, a member of the church in Kplogodome, Benin, has felt called to be the pastor there! He has already shown himself to be a capable leader and an excellent counselor.

Pray that C. will continue to

grow in wisdom and in his understanding of God's Word.

For: (1) Bible Drills, FBC, Biloxi; FBC, Batesville (D&FM); (2) State Ministry Assistants' (Secretaries) Conference, Garaywa, Clinton, 8th - 9th (CAPM); (3) North Mississippi Evangelism Conference, Harrisburg BC, Tupelo, 8th - 9th (Evan)

For: (1) Bible Drills, FBC, Meridian; Petal-Harvey BC, Petal (D&FM); (2) A volunteer team is going to a frontier country to lead business class-es for nationals. Pray for God to call U.S. business leaders to go and for the right contacts. Pray that nationals will respond to the Savior through these seminars.

For: (1) Bible Drills, FBC, Greenwood; FBC, Brookhaven (D&FM); (2) The Cagayan De Oro Evangelical Ministers Association of the Philippines composed of 50+ pastors of various denominations, met in March for a citywide prayer conference. Pray that this city will become a mission force instead of a mission field.

For: (1) Bible Drills, FBC, Laurel (D&FM); (2) Ask God to speak through representa-tives in the U.S. as they share the need for Palestinians to hear the Good News.

A missionary in Uganda went to a village of Karamojong people, taking hand-cranked audio cassette players and tapes of Bible stories set to music in their heart language. Two weeks later, everyone in the village had learned every the village had learned every song. Pray that the Holy Spirit will implant the Word of God in their hearts.

God told Haggar to name her son Ishmael "God hears" (Genesis 16). Even though this ancestor of the Arabs was named "God hears," many Muslims feel that God does not hear or answer their prayers. Pray for Muslims to understand that God hears them, sees them, and weeps

(1) Bible Drills, FBC, Tupelo; FBC, Saltillo (D&FM); (2) In early December, Baptists in Argentina commissioned eight young adults as international missionaries. Seven are being sent to sensitive areas of Asia and Africa. Thank God for the willingness of these eight Argentine believers to obey God's call to missions.

For: (1) FAITH Training, FBC, Saltillo, 18th - 20th (SS); (2) Chinese Christian leaders are looking to the needs of the world. Some of the large house church networks are strategizing to take the gospel back across the Silk Road to Jerusalem. Ask God to lead as they carry the gospel to other lands of spiritual darkness.

For: (1) Young Musicians' Evaluation, FBC, Clinton (CM); (2) Christian Performing Arts Festival & Leaders Lab, Country Woods BC, Byram, 5th - 6th (D&FM); (3) Leadership Training Conference, Gulfshore, Pass Christian (CLGM).

For: (1) Bible Drills, FBC, Starkville; FBC, Louisville, (D&FM); (2) Hundreds of lay leaders attended leadership training, prayerwalking, and pioneer evangelism conferences in Colombia. Pray that they will put into practice what they have learned as they return to the almost inaccessible areas where they live.

For: (1) Young Musicians'
Festival, Mississippi College,
Clinton (CM); (2) Tresa Carter
is a military chaplain for the
Marines at Cherry Point, NC.
Pray that she will fulfill the
vision God has given her to
hold a women's conference hold a women's conference that would unite the active duty women and their spous-

For: (1) International Missions Training Institute, Greenwood, Starkville (Partnership); (2) Mississippi Missionaries Fellowship Meeting, Garaywa (WMU); (3) Bible Drills, FBC, Clinton; FBC, Richland (D&FM)

# **Prayerwalking Day**

# in Your Association Saturday, April 27, 2002

WMU and Men's Ministry Associational Leadership Teams are being encouraged to prayerwalk in and/or prayerdrive around every church and the surrounding area before the new year. Teams will want to invite others to join in with them.

#### WHY PRAYERWALK?

- Raises awareness of lost and hurting people
- Shows the needs and oppportunities in your area
- Will mobilize and energize believers to evangelize and minister to their community

EXPECT THE HOLY SPIRIT TO HEIGHTEN YOUR PERCEPTION AND ENABLE YOU TO PRAY WITH POWER.

#### SCHEDULE SUGGESTION

- Decide on locations and number of groups.
- Early Saturday morning brief with groups to cover basics, including scriptures and "how to" instructions.
- Prayerwalk/drive for the designated time.
- Return to recap and report. Discuss and decide what to do with your information.

YOU CAN BE A PART IN DEVELOPING A VISION FOR YOUR CITY! For more info, contact the WMU at 1 (800) 748-1651, or in Jackson (601)292-3324.

# BAPTIST HYMNALS **NEEDED FOR AFRICAN SEMINARY**

The only seminary in Africa offering a graduate degree in church music is in Ogbomosho, Nigeria. Currently, most African church choirs sing only the melody of hymns from memory, for they have only the words without music.

Jimmy McCaleb, Church Music Department consultant, after teaching a course at this seminary, has a burden to provide our fellow Baptist musicians in Africa with 5,000 copies of the 1991 Baptist Hymnal. Their choirs could then proclaim the theology of our Baptist faith in beautiful fourpart harmony! As of August, 3,000 hymnals have been given and sent.

You can help with a financial gift. One hymnal is \$5. A box of 20 is \$100. If you or your church group would like to participate in this ministry, please call Jimmy McCaleb at (601) 292-3273, 1 (800) 748-1651 or E-mail him at jmccaleb@mbcb.org.

Checks may be made out to the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board and mailed to:

> Jimmy McCaleb **MBCB** P.O. Box 530 Jackson, MS 39205



# JUST FOR THE RECORD



Apple, Blackburn, Hodges, and Clendinning

Hillcrest Church, New Albany, recently received the Eagle Award. In three years, the Sunday School enrollment went from 456 to 958; average attendance from 263 to 378; worship service attendance from 325 to 490; number of prospects from 42 to 291; and number of baptisms

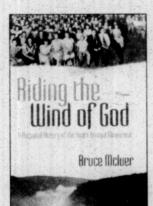
from 9 to 99. Pictured (from left) are David Apple, LifeWay Christian Resources; Jason Blackburn, minister of education; Gerald Hodges, pastor; and John Clendinning, consultant, Sunday School Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

During the '40s, in the wake of the Depression and in the midst of WWII, a small group of students began to pray for spiritual revival.



# Riding the Wind of God

A Personal History of the Youth Revival Movement



# Bruce Mcluer

Read these remarkable stories of God's power at work in surprising places and during an extrodianary time.

Order online and save 20% www.helwys.com



1 - 8 0 0 - 7 4 7 - 3 0 1 6

Marriage Enrichment Conference will be held at Liberty Church, Flowood, April 19421. The sessions will include Friday, 6-10 p.m., Saturday, 8-noon; and Sunday morning work service. Dale and Jena Forehand will lead the conference. For additional information, call the church at (601) 992-0345.

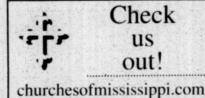
Volunteers (pictured) of Mission Service

Mission Service
Corps held their
annual planning
and update meeting on March 8-10
at Central Hills
Baptist Retreat in
Kosciusko. Wes
and Pauline
Bashaw were the
guest speakers.
Larry and Linda
Tate, state coordinators conducted
the meeting.

Final celebration for Woodville Heights Church, will be Sunday, April 14. The

April 14. The church is selling its property at 1109 Cooper Road, Jackson. The proceeds from the sale of the property will go in trust to Metro Association. At some time in the future the association will use the money to begin a new church. The schedule for the celebration is Sunday School, 9:15 a.m.; worship, 10:30 a.m.; followed by a covered dish meal.

Churches in the Moselle area are gathering for an areawide evangelistic rally in preparation for an upcoming



evangelistic crusade, May 5-8. The service starts at 7 p.m. with combined choir rehearsal at 6 p.m. Gary Bowlin, Summit, will be preaching. The music evangelist will be Randy McLeod of Houston Church, Laurel. For additional information, call Hiram Eaves at (601) 582-1187 or Valton Douglas at (601) 583-1459.



**Volunteers of Mission Service Corps** 

Rolling Creek Church, Quitman, will hold a memorial service on April 27 at 11 a.m. Mike Soesbe is pastor. For additional information, call the church at (601) 659-7401.



It's Fun! Great Workout

Come be a part of the Healthier Christian Weekend!

# Christian Aerobic Resource Workshop 2002

"The Leading Edge... A Healthier, Balanced Body"
Boot Camp...Christian Yoga...Step and Floor Aerobics...Pilates

Friday, May 3, 2002 5-10 p.m. Saturday, May 4, 2002 8-12:30

First Baptist Church - Christian Life Center Jackson, Mississippi

Cost/Registration...

4 weeks prior to event \$99
3 weeks prior to event \$109
1 to 2 weeks prior to events \$119
At the door \$130

For more information please call the Christian Life Center at (601) 949-1945 or 1947.

A luncheon was held recently for the GAs of First Church, Pecan Grove in Ellisville. The guest speaker was Michelle Matthews, a seminary student at Southwestern Seminary. Pictured (from left) are Savanna Wheeler, Matthews, Hope Padgett, Lenzi Weems, and Kaitlyn McNeill. Mary Everett is the teacher. Diana Brunet is the assistant teacher. Chris Wheeler is pastor.

Pews, pulpits, baptistries, stained glass, carpet, Van Winkle and steeples. Church Furnishings & Pew Upholstery

Toll Free 1-800-821-7263

# Baptist College News



Blue Mountain College Pennsylvania mission team

Blue Mountain College Baptist Student Union (BSU) recently held the commissioning service for the students participating on the spring break missions teams. One team will perform community service projects in Philadelphia, Pa., while anoth-er team will head to Athens,

W. Va. The Pennsylvania team (from left, front row) are Heather Carpenter, Dumas; Tracy Rice, Arlington, Tenn.; Sarah Smith, Baldwyn; Maria Teel, Red Banks; Tracy Moser, BSU director; (secrow) Cristy Middleton, Jared Tenn.; Belden; Neil Patterson, Shepherd, Scott Columbus; Nash, Blue Mountain; Amanda Cowart, Oklahoma City, Okla.; (back row) Chris Roberts, Starkville; Jeff Wilkerson, Ripley; and Josh Butrick, Summit. Not pictured: Kent Shepherd, Steens.

The West Virginia team (from left, front row) are Sandra Foster, Meridian; Heather Smith, Ripley; Lena Plunk, Florence, Ala.; Marsha Price, Baldwyn; Windy Merritt, New Albany; Stephanie Tisdale, BSU program and office assistant; (back row) Debra Francis, Defiance, Ohio; Kristy Camp, Amory; Allison Bell, Lake Village, Ark.; and Anthony Adams, Byhalia.

Blue Mountain College West Virginia mission team

# REVIVAL DATES

First, Ridgeland: April 14-17; Sunday, 10 a.m., dinner on the grounds, and a musical presentation God For Us at 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; speakers will be Rob Futral, Jackson, Monday; Rob Boyd, Clinton, Tuesday; and Jim Futral, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, Wednesday.

Wheeler Grove, Corinth: April 8-10; 7 p.m. nightly; Bob Pittman, Memphis, evangelist; Kara Blackard, pastor.

April 7-12; Sunday, 10 a.m., noon meal followed by afternoon service; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; evangelists are Chris Thomas, Sunday; Judene Purser, Monday; Gary Strelow, Tuesday; Jim Taylor, Wednesday; Larry Yarber, Thursday; and Don Taylor, Friday; Sandi Sartor, music; Ronnie Purser, pastor.

Are your seniors tired of crawling over the **HUMP?** The solution is Tri-State Van & Bus Today! 1-800-330-4 BUSES! VANS! PEOPLE MOVERS! www.tri-statevanbus.com

First, Magee: April 14-17; Sunday, 11 a.m., followed by dinner on the grounds; Mon.-Wed., 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.; W. A. (Billy) Smith, Madison, evangelist; Tim Hubbard, Petal, music; Jerry Sullivan, pastor.

High Hill, Philadelphia: April 7-10; Sunday, 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Guy McGarity, evangelist; Welton Madden, music; Sue Ann Walker, pianist; Ray Files, pastor.

Kilmichael: Kilmichael, April 7-10; Sunday, Sunday School, 9:40 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; covered dish dinner, noon; and worship, 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 11:45 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Jay Richardson, Greenville, evangelist; Andy Cummings, Grenada, music; David Bishop, pastor.

Society Hill, Oakvale; April 7-10; 7 p.m.; Philip Duncan, evangelist; Beau Parker, music; Tommy Broom, pastor.

# 1119 Mississippi Churches Can't Be Wrong.

More than 1100 churches throughout Mississippi put their faith in Wellington Associates for comprehensive insurance services including property, general, and specific liability, vehicle, workers compensation, and other coverages. Wellington guarantees a quality program, customized for your ministry, at the most competitive premium rates.

For references and more information, call Mike Brooks at 601-420-0174 or 1-800-442-0290.



The Impressionist World of Joyce Bradley opened April 4 at William Carey College and will hang through May 3. The exhibit can be viewed during the regular gallery hours, 1-4 p.m., Mon.-Fri., except for school holidays. For additional information and to schedule special appointments or group tours, call (601) 318-6192.

The TranSouth Conference recognized Coach Jack Moser and two Blue Mountain College Lady Toppers, Andrea Phillips and Sheree McDowell, on the 2002 All-TranSouth Awards list. Moser ends his 13th season after leading the Lady Toppers to a 16-13 overall record and a 5-9 conference record to place fifth in the league. The Lady Toppers were also recognized as Champions of Character by the TranSouth Conference earlier this year. Phillips, a senior guard, was named to the All-TranSouth Conference Second Team for the second consecutive year. She is the daughter of Ray and Glenda Phillips of Anderson, Ala. McDowell, a freshman forward, was named to the TranSouth All-Freshman Team. She is the daughter of James and Tammy McDowell of Belmont.

Special guest artists, Capital Brass, will join the Symphonic Winds, the Singers, and the Chorale in presenting a special musical event that will offer an artistic view on contending with tragedies. Seeking Hope Amidst Tragedy: A Concert in Three Acts will be presented on April 21, at 3 p.m. in Swor Auditorium on the campus of Mississippi College (MC). Craig Young, director of bands, will conduct the Symphonic Winds. James Meaders, assistant professor of music, will conduct the Singers and the Chorale. Call (601) 925-3439 for additional information.

**Performances** Shakespearean tragedy Macbeth will be held April 4-6 in the O. L. Quave Theatre at William Carey College at 8 p.m. Seats for performances of Macbeth may be reserved by calling (601) 318-6221. The box office will be open daily from 1 until 4 p.m. beginning April 1. Regular admission is \$10, senior citizens and military personnel are \$8, while the cost for students is \$5.

The 25th Mississippi College (MC) Shakespeare Festival per-formance of Much Ado About Nothing will be performed in the inside courtyard of historic Jennings Hall on the MC campus, April 15-20. Phyllis Seawright, assistant professor of communication, is director of the play. A special preview for the MC cam-pus is set for April 15, 7 p.m., with \$3 tickets. Other production dates will be April 16-20, with 7 p.m. shows on Tues., Fri., and Sat.; a 2:30 p.m. matinee on Wednesday; and a 2 p.m. matinee on Sat. Tickets will be \$3 for students, MC faculty and staff, and senior adults; general admission is \$5. Reservations may be made after March 25 by calling (601) 925-3462. This will be George Pittman's 25th and final year as director of the festival. He will be retiring in June after 40 years of teaching, 25 of them at MC.

William Carey College (WCC) will offer the Step-Ahead program for high school students who would like to earn college credit for high school. Step-Ahead is a concurrent enrollment program for high school juniors and seniors enrolled in selected college classes offered at, and in cooperation with, the high school. Through this program students can earn up to 15 transferable college credits. The cost is \$60 per credit hour, not including textbooks. For additional information, contact your high school counselor or WCC at (601) 318-6103.

#### MEADOWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH

AMORY, MISSISSIPPI

Invites Your Indication of Interest In

\$1,100,000 General Mortgage Bonds

EARN

Issue Date: April 25, 2002 Interest Rates Range from 3.85% to 7.35%

Bond Maturity Range - 6 months to 14 years. Bonds are available in multiples of \$250. These bonds may be placed in self-directed retirement accounts in most cases

This announcement is neither an offer nor a solicitation of an offer to buy. The offer is made by prospectus only. For more information about this bond issue, obtain a prospectus, which describes all of the particulars of this undertaking. Read it carefully before you invest or send money. All bonds are offered at face value, subject to prior sale.



**UP TO** 

733 North State Street Jackson, MS 39202

For Additional Information Contact:

Ms. Julia Field At the church office (662) 256-5616 msjulia@tsixroads.net

#### **LESS MIXING**

**Editor:** 

Unfortunately, over the past several years both political parties have used federal judgeship appointments for partisan political purposes. Judge (Charles) Pickering was surely aware of that at the time he accepted nomination. That said, I question the extensive coverage given his nomi-nation and the subsequent Senate committee hearings and vote in The Baptist Record. We need less mixing of politics and religion, not more.

**Ed Cole** Starkville

#### LOVE NEVER DIMMED

My mother died on Feb. 28. Her name was Marjorie Rowden Kelly and I loved her with every breath of my body,

but this tribute is not about her because she knew I loved her. This tribute is about Earl, who may not have known that I loved him too.

Earl Kelly married my mother when I was an adultawith children of my own. They traveled together, spoke at churches together, went to mission fields together, entertained together, and laughed together. They were in love.

Time passed and they both grew older — but their love never dimmed. However, as fate would have it, the light began to dim in my mother's mind. The horror Alzheimer's gradually stole her memory of time, places, people, and children. We all watched from afar as jobs, distance, and

children kept us away.
Through the years and years of progression of this "walking death," Earl's love and caring never wavered. He was always there for her,

Gradually, her recognition of me, her daughter, soon faded but she always recognized Earl. He was the smiling face she saw when she awoke and the loving caress she felt upon sleeping. His patience amazed us. His strength sustained us. His love endured.

"And now adideth faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love." 1 Cor. 13:13. I love you, Earl.

Robin Rowden Riggs Watkinsville, Ga.

#### TILL DEATH PART

Editor:

подавления выправления принения принени

As a minister, some of the tenderest moments I have seen have been that of an aging spouse caring for and coming to the point of saying a final farewell during the memorial service. In today's world of ministry within the family and keeping marriage vows, it should come to no one's surprise that a minister of the Gospel of Christ should keep those vows "till death do us part."

I was able to see firsthand the tenderness of a man that not only Mississippi Baptists know, but is known by many throughout the Southern Baptist Convention. Earl Kelly said a final farewell to Marjorie, his wife of 23 years. I suppose the reason it touched me even more is the fact that so many men and women forsake their vows at the news of a debilitating disease that will eventually take the life of a spouse.

How can a man endure such? It was only through the mercy of Christ and the renewing of strength that Earl Kelly knew would comfort him. I bless the Lord for men and women who continue their

**REFUSING GOD'S WORD** 

faithfulness to the Lord and

Most of you who read this know of couples who need to know this strength. If you are the ones who will be ministering to

them or having a part in the

memorial service, show them

Jesus, for he is the only way we

can survive these times and sea-

sons of a broken spirit. His mer-

Randall Jenkins, Assoc. Pastor

cies remain new each day!

Bethlehem Church

Clarkesville, Ga.

draw on his streng n.

**Editor:** 

I read with interest your editorial concerning the Baptist Faith and Message (BFM), and your statement about being careful not to make the BFM a Webster's The Dictionary definition of creed is "any statement of belief or principles." The BFM is not just "any statement." It confirms what we as Baptists believe are the fundamentals of our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and what the Bible teaches us concerning our walk with Christ. If a person refuses to sign a statement that they agree with the BFM, they are actually refusing to agree with what God says in his Word.

I notice in last week's Baptist Record Rivercrest that Fellowship in Jackson has called the former pastor's wife as their pastor. That is their privilege, but I agree with the letter of Jim Butler stating, "If a church chooses to take steps that are not consistent with basic Southern Baptist beliefs, why would they wish to be called Southern Baptists?" and "...Mississippi Baptists and Metro Association are also free not to have fellowship with them as a result of their actions.

There is no Scripture in the Bible that states a woman is to be the pastor of a church. Women have preached, women are chaplains, and women do many things a man refuses to do in serving the Lord, but the Bible still does not mention anywhere about a woman being pastor of a church. Titus 2:1-5 clearly states the role of a woman.

Frances G. Parrish Starkville

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Unsigned letters will not be printed. No multi-copy or form letters will be used.

Each correspondent must include an address and telephone number for verification. In special instances, name may be withheld at writer's request and editor's discretion.

Please include the name of cooperating Mississippi Baptist church where correspondent is a member. (Mississippi Baptists' letters will receive priority when space is limited.)

Letters must be limited to 250 words. All correspondence is subject to editing.

Correspondents should refrain from personal attacks. The opinions expressed in letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

No more than one letter from any individual will be printed during a three-month period.

When in the judgement of the editor a given issue has received sufficient attention, correspondence dealing with it will no longer be published and a notice will be printed to that effect.

#### **CLASSIFIED ADS**

RATE: 60 cents per word, minimum of ten words; maximum of fifty words. Cash with order except on contract advertising. Include name, address, zip code, and phone number in word count. No blind ads. ONLY WRITTEN ADS ACCEPTED.

employed. Finally affordable health insur- churches and homes. Stained ance call (662) 568-3482. Underwritten Glassworks, Inc. (800) 605-2970. by the Mega Life & Health Ins. Group.

lowship. From children to senior citi- meals), see www.kellersresort.com or zens groups, enjoy a day of fishing in call (479) 253-8418. farm raised catfish ponds. For more BRANSON, MO, CONDO - Smoke-(662) 836-5740.

HOPPER GLASS STUDIO - custom rates; groups welcomed. Anniversary church windows, reworking and repair - Specials. (662) 746-4632. Columbus/Jackson (877) 477-1899.

PEARL RIVER GLASS STUDIO, INC., Community theater recently renovat-(800) 771-3639; www.prgs.com. New ed seating area and bought twice as and restoration, baptistery murals.

Miss., phone (601) 776-6617.

DENTS (children & youth). Send sales, and installation of commercial resumes to Search Committee, First cooking equip., refrigeration, and ice Baptist Church, P.O. Box 373, makers for church kitchens. Contact Glennwood, AR 71943.

ATTENTION MINISTERS and self CUSTOM STAINED GLASS windows for

**GROUPS FOR GREAT PASSION PLAY** CORNERSTONE FARMS, INC. offers packages in Eureka Springs, Arkansas your group a day out for fun and fel- (with tickets, lodging, recreation, and

info call Roger Jones in Anguilla at free; no pets; walk-in. Sleeps six; totally furnished - 2BD 2BA. Reduced

FOR SALE: THEATER STYLE SEATS. stained glass church windows, repair many seats as needed. We have approximately 300 fully disassembled CHURCH PEW UPHOLSTERY Free esti- used seats. Contact Brookhaven Little mates. Davis Upholstery, Quitman, Theater representatives at either (601) 643-8321 or (601) 833-3351

SEEKING FT MINISTER OF STU- EQUIPMENT SOLUTIONS-DESIGN, Richard at (662) 321-0058.

Retreats (Staff, Deacon, Ladies), Senior outings, Receptions, Weddings, Private parties



No Mistake Plantation 5602 Highway 3 Satartia, MS 39162 (662) 746-3129

# Are you paying too much for your Medicare Supplement or Prescription Drugs? If yes, Call Today!

☐ Disability Medicare Supplement Call today for free information: Under age 65 . . . New Low Rates! Drug Card!

■ Medicare Supplement Ages 65 and over. Low Rates! Drug card!

☐ Major Medical & Surgical Plan Helps pay benefits for: Hospital Room, Intensive Care, Surgery. Drug card available.

■ Mortgage Family Protection Plan offers: full pay off of your mortgage should you die. Return of all premiums paid should you live until the end of the term!

E.F. Hutton Insurance Marketing

PO Box 5127 Brandon, MS 39047 call toll-free: 1-800-880-2305

Agents needed. For complete details on all plans including limitations and exclusions call today. Not connected with any federal program.

#### MS Positions Available

PART-TIME MUSIC DIRECTOR, Harrison CHURCH AVERAGING 100 in Sunday County. Send resumes to: Music Search School seeks full-time minister of Committee, Robinwood Baptist Church, music and youth or bi-vocational min-P.O. Box 580, Saucier, MS 39574.

Director. Resumes may be sent to 168 to (601) 636-7574. Colonial Drive, Jackson, MS 39204.

NEEDED: people, computer, and clerical North Winona Baptist Church, 602 skills required. Please send resume to Alberta Drive, Winona, MS 38967 or fax 5199 Lakeland Drive, Flowood, MS to (662) 283-5004. 39232 or fax to (601) 992-4242.

services. Call (601) 939-6282.

ister of music. Please send resume to ALTA WOODS BAPTIST CHURCH is Calvary Baptist Church, 2878 Old seeking a Kindergarten/Daycare Hwy. 27, Vicksburg, MS 39180; or fax

MINISTER OF STUDENTS NEEDED. PART-TIME CHURCH SECRETARY Full-time position. Send resume to

**BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH** in Potts PARK PLACE BAPTIST CHURCH, Camp, Miss., is seeking a full-time or bi-PEARL/BRANDON, is seeking an interim vocational pastor. Church averages 40 in pianist who is comfortable with blended Sunday School. Please send resume to services. Experience needed/multiple Bethany Baptist Church, P.O. Box 563, Potts · Camp, MS 38569. Attn: Pulpit Committee.

# **FAMILY BIBLE STUDY**

Warnings of disaster Amos 1:1-3:15

By Sandra Gunn

Amos! What is familiar to you about the book of Amos? Do you remember hearing sermons on the judgement of the nations, the phrase "you cows of Basham," "woe to those who are at ease in Zion," the plumb line, the basket of summer fruit, and finally, the restoration of God's people?

These phrases and topics may be familiar, but not nearly familiar enough. Hopefully, when we get to the end of these four lessons, we will know so much more about this little book, and it will be heart knowledge, not head knowledge.

In rapid succession, Amos lashed out at six of Israel's tra-



Gunn

ditional enemies. His oratory must have drawn a crowd, for most people will stop to hear their enemies being

judged for sins and atrocities. It really boils down to a people accusing "them" while at the same time justifying "us." Eight times Amos begins

his judgmental words with, "Thus saith the Lord." He makes sure the people realize this message is from God. Amos is only the spokesman.

The message to each nation follows a similar pattern: the judge is God, a list of transgressions, and the judgement for those transgressions. Can we not hear Amos getting louder and more fiery in his pronouncements on these six nations?

Then he turns his own nation over to Judah. The people are probably stunned — this is coming closer to home. Judah had a greater responsibility in that she had known the love of God, and had been blessed with religious leaders to instruct in the application of that

love. Judah had rejected the law of the Lord and followed after idolatry.

Now he brings it home to the people listening to him — Israel! This was the heart of God's message. Israel was not innocent, and could not escape God's judgement. The way Israel treated others, the injustice to the poor, their treatment of the humble was indicative of the nature of her heart. Further indictment was the immorality they committed in the name of religion.

God then speaks through Amos to remind them of all the great things he has done for them. He had been so merciful to them in the past, but they were not to be exempt from the punishment due them.

now reveals his patience and grace, in that God does nothing without revealing his secret" (Amos 3:7). Judgement does not come from God without warning. He gives each of us enough revelation of our sin to come to repentance and restoration.

We know the consequences ahead of time. In this case, the Israelites had ample teachings and warnings to decide whether or not to obey God. They chose the "not to."

God is fair and equitable in his judgement. The altars of Bethel would feel his wrath by the very horns themselves being cut off. The sanctuary would no longer be a sanctuary from one's enemies. When God's wrath comes, there will be no sanctuary for the guilty.

Judgement would come also on the ones who lived in luxury while others go hungry. Israel had been given the knowledge of God, yet she ignored it. Amos continues to voice the words of God's judgement upon people who are in privileged positions and yet ignore a world of physical need and spiritual sickness.

How can we miss the lesson of warning to us? Have we, like Israel, been far too prone to accept our world today as the normal state of affairs? If our society is based on materialism, excessive luxury, selfishness, and greed, then do we need an Amos of today to tell us that God will deal with us?

This lesson is too pertinent for us to miss or ignore. Sometimes a privileged people feel themselves better, more worthy, and more deserving than others. This attitude may cause us to lose concern for the less fortunate and needy, and even sometimes think we are above the judgement of God. We must remember that God deals with us not only from his judgement but out of his love and mercy.

Gunn is a member of First Church, Biloxi.

# EXPLORE THE BIBLE

# Declaring redemption **Ephesians 3:1-13**

By Robin Brumfield

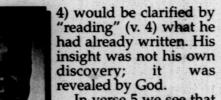
This lesson is taken from Ephesians 3:1-13. It is about God's intention to work through individual Christians and through the church to reveal the redemption offered in Jesus Christ. The emphasis is on adults doing what they can to assure that all people know about the redemption God offers in Jesus Christ. The lesson challenges adults to declare to others the redemption God offers in Jesus Christ

The passage is broken into four sections. The first section deals with grace to experience (vv. 1-3). The words "prisoner of Jesus Christ for the sake of you Gentiles" (v. 1) refers to Paul's imprisonment in Rome,

because of his service for Christ.

In applying this Brumfield for us today, we realize that any responsibility God gives to believers grows out of the experience of his grace in salvation. We also experience other areas of his grace. These include the call to work in missions. For "administration" in verse 2 ("dispensation," KJV), it is the idea that Paul's ministry was part of God's plan for his new people. The main application for this section is that anything that God does for us or calls us to do is an act of grace

on his part. The second passage is the mystery to understand (vv. 4-6). "The mystery of Christ" (v.



In verse 5 we see that it "was not made known to men in other generations" means that God has not revealed this

mystery in the past to the extent he has now. Paul understood the mystery of Christ as the truth that through the Gospel Gentiles can be included in the people of God. Gentiles are also full members who share in all the promises related to believing in Jesus Christ. Thus, as believers, we

are to tell all people about salvation through Christ.

The third passage is the truth to proclaim (vv. 7-9). Notice the genuine humility of Paul as expressed in the phrase "less than the least of all God's people" (v. 8). Being humble is not popular in the time in which we live. That is why we should

remember that God's ways are not the same as man's ways.

We are called to be set apart and to be different. One way we can do this is by being humble. Also, "the unsearchable riches of Christ" refers to the truths of the Gospel. Though he felt unworthy, Paul saw his call to preach the wonderful and deep truths of the Gospel as another experience of God's grace. To apply this it us today, Christians need to tell others about the redemption available through Jesus Christ.

The fourth passage is wisdom to make known (vv. 10-13). To make wisdom known to others, a one-on-one presentation of the Gospel is one of the best ways of making redemption known throughout the universe.

However, it is not the only way Christians can be involved in the presentation of the Gospel. There is national and international missions activity that can occur either as a volunteer or as full-time ministry.

Please pray about your involvement in presenting the Gospel to others. Notice that the redemption made available through Jesus Christ reveals Gods "manifold wisdom" (v. 10). Thus, as believers declare this redemption to others, they also are making known God's wisdom.

From verses 12-13 we know that Christians have the power available through prayer to help them make known the redemption available in Jesus Christ. This section emphasizes Paul's work as a minister of the Gospel. Paul's work was just a part of carrying out God's intention for the church to make known Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

This has been a good look at this passage, but what does all this really mean to me as a Christian? It means that all those in the church are to be involved in spreading the Good News about the redemption available through Jesus Christ.

Brumfield is interim pastor of Goodwater Church, Forest.

# Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats,



no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number. Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted.

All news items are subject to editing, ping. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only.

Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. Requests to return photographs must be accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

# THE BANKST CHILDREN.

THE VILLAGE

Ronny E. Robinson, Executive Director

P.O. Box 27 Clinton, MS 39060-0027 (601) 922-2242

e-mail: bcv1@misnet.com www.baptistchildrenvillage.com

#### Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of The Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful, and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

#### **JANUARY** 1-31, 2002 HONORS

Mr. Ray Austin Liberty BC Deacons, Pastor & Wayne & Janice Barringer Mr. & Mrs. Jess H. Dickinson Mrs. Maurice Boone Rev. & Mrs. Howard T. Scarborough Mr. & Mrs. Ellis Brewer Mrs. Jacqueline B. Gaskin Mrs. Davis Clark

Mr. & Mrs. Allen W. Clark II Mrs. Clinton Clem Mr. & Mrs. Allen W. Clark II **Miss Gladys Clement** Rev. & Mrs. Howard T.

Mr. & Mrs. Chester Cochran Mrs. Katie Mae Overstreet **Bro. & Mrs. Doyle Cummings** Mr. & Mrs. Jesse H. Oswalt &

Nellie & Charlie Gardiner Mr. & Mrs. B. J. Crawford Pat & Kathleen Grubbs Mr. & Mrs. Keith Grubbs Elnora Harmon Mr. & Mrs. Cliff Thach

(Clifton & Taylor) Mrs. F. D. Hewitt Mr. & Mrs. Allen W. Clark II Robert Daniel Jordan Mr. & Mrs. Phillip Hilton Martha Ann Klaus

Mr. & Mrs. George D. Palmer Mrs. Curtis Hall Robert B. Mullins

Mrs. Joyce King Mrs. Myra Van Norman Liberty Baptist Church Cheryl Leigh Perkins

Mary Lynn Perkins Ivy & Thelma Rawson Mr. & Mrs. Jess H. Dickinson Rev. & Mrs. G. C. Sansing

Virginia Cox & Fly, David, Jody & Sharon Velma Shoemake Alathean SSC, FBC-Collins Kirk Taylor

Mr. & Mrs. Zachary Taylor III Ms. Patricia T. White Mary Jane Thach Mr. & Mrs. Cliff Thach (Clifton & Taylor) Mrs. Myra Van Norman Billie Ann Welch Miss Mary Edith Waggoner Mr. & Mrs. Rice Henry Maddox Mrs. Lodena Waggoner

Mr. & Mrs. Rice Henry

Maddox

#### **JANUARY** 1-31, 2002 MEMORIALS

**Edward Adkins** Mr. & Mrs. Robert Green & Family Lemmie Aldridge Mr. & Mrs. Robert J. Tuggle Hubert L. Alexander Mr. & Mrs. Jack D. Sumrall Mr. & Mrs. Woodrow Pack Dr. and Mrs. William B. Riley D. Alford

Trustmark National Bank Mrs. Hazel Anderson Phillipston Baptist Church Mr. & Mrs. W. M. Alderman John Arnold Bill & Deena Barbee

Mr. & Mrs. Hayes Branscome Mr. & Mrs. Jay Gore III Mr. John H. Arthur, Sr. Paul Nunnery's SSC, Morrison Mr. & Mrs. Hale Singletary Jr.

**Dywayne Ashley** Lee & Marshalene Gillespie G. W. "Doc" Atwood Mr. & Mrs. Lamar Hataway Lamont Baker Mr. & Mrs. Olen S. Broom

Mrs. Ella Barnes Ms. Peggy Williams Mrs. Elizabeth H. Browning Mrs. Myrtis Barrow Mrs. Bal Mobley

Marguerite Barton Mary Martha SSC, FBC-Crystal Sprgs Mrs. Lyle Bates, Sr. Mr. & Mrs. W. C. Stevenson Jr.

Mrs. Mary Lou S. Hull Michael Black Mr. & Mrs. James N. King Mr. Verbon Black Mr. & Mrs. B. R. Taylor **Charles Blackwell** Mr. & Mrs. James C. Dean Jr. Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Herbert Rena Mae Boykin Sidney Ellis SSC, Alta Woods BC Joan Brasfield Dr. & Mrs. W. D. Austin Willie Mae Braswell Mr. & Mrs. Ray I. Cross Ms. Elizabeth Doyle Bryan Mrs. Virginia H. England Mr. & Mrs. J. E. Jones Jr. Lydia S. Bryan

Mr. Lory Bates

Ms. Dian Smith

Mr. James Beckum

Mr. & Mrs. Curtis A. Buchana

Nancy Bryan T.E.L. SSC, Springfield BC-Dr. H. D. Buchanan Mrs. Jack M. Simmons Mrs. Irma Phillips Burgess Mr. & Mrs. Frank O. Crosthwait Jr. Mr. & Mrs. Powell E. Poe Mrs. Cecil Burns

Mr. & Mrs. Jewell K. Dykes

Mr. & Mrs. Ed E. Smith **Ruby Burrow** Mr. & Mrs. Billy Hales **Ethel Burt** Mr. & Mrs. Glen King Jane Busby Mr. & Mrs. John Busby

Julie Caraway Mr. & Mrs. Guy Blankinship Mr. & Mrs. John R. Byram Pete & Hilda Conerly Beth & Jason Hosey Mr. & Mrs. Earlon D. Shows Ms. Virginia W. Vanderhoogt Mr. & Mrs. Roger Zimmerman Mr. & Mrs. R. W. Hardin Jr. Mr. & Mrs. John Nowlin Mrs. Lois Carleton

Mrs. Jessie W. Lewis **Gordon Carr** Dr. Jack Q. Causey Mrs. Betty Jo Carter Mr. & Mrs. Bill F. Duncan Mr. & Mrs. Allerd Charles Smith

Mr. & Mrs. Daniel E. Hossley Mr. & Mrs. E. E. Reynolds Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Q. Nevels Mr. & Mrs. Max Klaus Mr. & Mrs. Calvin Pugh Mrs. J. W. Carter

Mr. & Mrs. James D. Arnold Mrs. Mary Frank Carter Mr. & Mrs. Buford Berry Ms. Donna Chapman Mr. & Mrs. Jim Pilgrim Mr. & Mrs. Lamar Hataway

Wallace Childers Mr. & Mrs. Fred D. Norsworthy Mrs. Louise Cliburn Mr. & Mrs. Joe A. Horton Sr. Mrs. Cheryl "Check" Cody Mrs. Judy Dolan Mr. & Mrs. Robert W. Simm IRS (Exam. Collection & TPS) Widgie Bell

Mr. & Mrs. Franklin T. Jones Mrs. Ellen Collins Mr. & Mrs. Roger B. Johnson Rev. Dennis Conniff, Jr. Dr. & Mrs. J. Clark Hensley Dr. & Mrs. Earl E. Kelly The Heritage Luncheon Club James & Annie Lou Knight

Mr. Otis Cooper Ruth SSC, Hurley BC-Hurley Percy Ray Cothren Siloam Baptist Church Mr. & Mrs. Don Evans

Mr. Kimble Crossley Eloise Crossley SSC, FBC-Columbus Mr. & Mrs. Dan Southerland **Cindy Crowley** Mr. & Mrs. John Louk

Mrs. Willie Catherine "Bill" Dale Mr. & Mrs. Howard Bridges Mr. & Mrs. Cecil Glen Polk **Dorothy Dandridge** Mr. & Mrs. Leonard O. Pogue Mr. Robert Daniels Mr. & Mrs. John Louk

Mr. Charles Darnell Mrs. Ray A. Whelan Jr. Hiram E. Davis Mr. & Mrs. Jack D. Sumrall Mrs. Sybil Davis Mr. & Mrs. John G. Hardy Mrs. Audie Dawson Cindy H Shackleford(Merrill Lynch) Wilkins Dedwylder Mr. & Mrs. Stuart V. Allen **James Arthur Dees** Mr. & Mrs. E. C. Parsons Stuart Denman, Sr. SMGT. & Mrs. James E. Walters Robert Lee Dominick Mr. & Mrs. Elwood L. Crain Ms. Alice M. Dominick Mrs. Herman Dukes Ms. Alma Louise Smith Mr. Toxie M. Dunaway Ms. Fay M. Donegan Mr. John B. Dunca Mrs. Gladys M. Kelly Ms. Peggy Williams **Mary Frances Edmon** Mr. and Mrs. Bill Barbee Chesley J. Englade Mr. & Mrs. John Robert Griffin Laura H. England

Mrs. Elizabeth H. Browning Phillip R. Enochs Craig O. Haskins Family Hattie D. Evans Smith's Machine & Welding, Co., Inc Mrs. Ruby Evans Mr. & Mrs. Josh Morris **Billy Faulkenbery** 

Mr. & Mrs. Troy L. King Raymond D. Faulkner Dr. & Mrs. W. D. Austin **Ruth Faulkner** Mr. & Mrs. J. D. Lynch **Don Feasel** Doug & Cara Moore Mr. Joe Ferguson

Mrs. Celeste C. Truitt Mr. Leroy Fitzhugh Harreld Chevrolet-Olds Co. Lee Fortenberry T.E.L. SSC, Springfield BC-Morton

**Eva Franklin** Dr. & Mrs. Fred E. Tatum Carrie Frazier Mr. & Mrs. John Hobbs Mrs. Lily Frazier Mr. & Mrs. Stuart V. Allen

Mr. David Gamble Harreld Chevrolet-Olds Co. Louise Gamblin Mr. & Mrs. Billy W. Owen Sr.

Mr. & Mrs. George F. Pettey Mr. Tommy Garrett Ms. Ruth V. Whitt Mr. & Mrs. Charles Sanderson Mr. Harvey Gast Mr. & Mrs. Willie Badon

Ms. Diane Gibson Parent of Mrs. Ben Graves Mr. & Mrs. Hubert T. Kendrick Mary Green Mr. & Mrs. Robert Green &

**Darryl Gibson** 

Mr. Wilford Greer Mr. & Mrs. John Louk Mrs. Ernestine Grimes Mr. & Mrs. Clovis Harden Jr. Mrs. James Grimes

Mr. & Mrs. Max Juchheim Mrs. Viola Gulbransen Mr. & Mrs. Dennis L. McPhail Mrs. Juawice Hamberlin Mr. & Mrs. E. C. Parsons Mr. James "Buddy" Haney, Jr.

Rev. & Mrs. L. Gerald Castilo Mrs. Clinnie Mae C. Hardy John Alumbaugh Ron Coulter Perry Pugh

Gordon Sansing Margaret McNeill **Wayne Harmon** Mr. and Mrs. Cliff Thach (Clifton & Taylor) George E. Hart, Jr.

Mr. & Mrs. Frank O. Crosthwait Jr. Ms. Martha Putnam Mr. B. F. Hawkins

Mr. & Mrs. Doug Atkinson Holmes County FSA Office Holmes County NRCS Office Holmes County RD Office Ms. Dorothy Ward Billie Leake & Family Nannie Lou Hayman Mr. & Mrs. Floyd E. Coil

Ms. Hope H. Hawkins

Cindy H Shackleford(Merrill Mr. O. J. Hays Mrs. Shirley Hewitt Mr. & Mrs. Stuart V. Allen Dr. Jim Hendrick Dr. & Mrs. J. Clark Hensley L. H. Herberger Mrs. Ethel B. Bourne Mrs. Louella Herren Mrs. Imogene L. Penn Clearance Herrington Ms. Katie Holden Argus Hester Mr. & Mrs. Stanley Ellis **Billy Hewitt** Mr. & Mrs. Richard C. Van Mr. & Mrs. Jack Hill Mr. & Mrs. Robert Green & Mrs. Billie Jean Holland The Andrews Class, FBC-Mr. & Mrs. Cecil Glen Polk Dr. & Mrs. W. D. Austin Mrs. Ray A. Whelan Jr. Mrs. Pauline Holland

W. B. Holmes Mrs. C. D. Pollan Mr. Clifford Huff Mr. & Mrs. Weslie Causey Mr. & Mrs. Troy L. King Mr. & Mrs. Robert R. Waymire Mr. Frank Hughes Mr. Norman Weathersby Jr. **Brother of Mrs. Ellie Hulett** Ms Ann Dowdle Lillie H. Hulsey Mr. David E. Bowles **Gwenette Ingram** Ms. Rachel Hooper **Charles Irby** Mr. & Mrs. George Kish

Mrs. A. B. Magee

Mr. & Mrs. Frank James Rudolph & Faye Spears Thomas & Martha Spears Mr. & Mrs. B. L. Morland Mr. & Mrs. Rhen W. Pierce State Blvd BC Youth Dept-Meridian **Nancy James** Rudolph & Faye Spears Thomas & Martha Spears Mr. Pat Jemison

Mr. & Mrs. Charles F. Davis Mr. & Mrs. Charles Moak Katie Jewel Jenkins Mr. & Mrs. Jess H. Dickinson Don Johnson Graeber Brothers Inc. Mrs. Rena Dell Johnson **Betty Hovas** 

Mr. & Mrs. Byron Simon Mr. & Mrs. Larry Killebrew Rena Killebrew Johnson Mr. & Mrs. Richard A. Pullen **Ralph Perkins** A. D. Jones Mr. & Mrs. Floyd E. Coil Mr. Jeffrey Jones Mr. James C. Peay

Mr. & Mrs. J. D. Edwards Mr. Bob May Mrs. "Sammie" Kahler Ms. Ada Pittman Mr. & Mrs. Jess H. Dickinson Mrs. Mattie McBride Mr. & Mrs. Floyd Lynk **Paul McCary** Bapt Men's Bible Class, Mr. & Mrs. Charles E. Johnson Hollandale

Charles "Sonny" Ketchum Mr. & Mrs. Jerry L. Loftin Mr. Jeff King Mr. & Mrs. Greg Moore Mr. & Mrs. Clovis Harden Jr. Mr. Joe P. Kirby

Mrs. Ardelle P. Ikerd & Family Ms. Louise B. McCraw **Tony Clinton Kitchens** Mr. & Mrs. James N. King **Dot Lamm** Sweet Spirit Singers, Liberty BC

**James Forrest Laws** Mr. & Mrs. Hembree Brandon Mrs. Clarine Lawson Mr. & Mrs. Hiram Davis Jr. Mrs. Nell Lee David & Diane Lee Bill & Deena Barbee

**Eugene Leftwich** Mr. & Mrs. Stuart V. Allen **David Nathan Legge** Dr. Rebecca S. Wilkie Mr. & Mrs. Ira F. Legge Dr. Rebecca S. Wilkie Ann Leggett Mr. & Mrs. M. E. Curran Mrs. Claudia Lewis Mr. & Mrs. Scott Cassel

**Bernice Jones Little** Mrs. Maurice B. Beatty Mrs. Edna Long Mr. & Mrs. David Denson George W. Loper, Jr. Encouragers SSC, Highland BC-Vicksburg

Mr. & Mrs. James M. Brannon Mr. Milford Lundy
Mr. Mrs. Max Juchheim Mrs. Rosemary Miley Madden Mr. & Mrs. Tom W. Doolittle

Bill & Deena Barbee Mr. & Mrs. John T. Keeton, Jr. Jo Spears & Family Mr. & Mrs. Walter B. Moore Mr. & Mrs. Greg Moore Mr. & Mrs. Hiram Davis Jr. Mr. & Mrs. W. D. Griffin Mrs. Ann Bonner Huber Marilyn Magee

Mrs. Gerry McGraw Jane "Sis" Nelson Manning Mr. & Mrs. James Paul Robinson Mr. & Mrs. George F. Pettey Mr. & Mrs. Frank O. Crosthwait Jr. John & Gai England. Sandra& Virginia Mr. & Mrs. Jerry C. Jefcoat

Mr. & Mrs. Milton E. Jefcoat Ruth B. Jefcoat Mrs. Lessie Bassett Mason James & Annie Lou Knight **Annie Mae Mauldin** Mr. & Mrs. B. B. Harry Jr. Mr. James Beckwith Mawk Mary Lynn, Cheryl Leigh, &

Ms. Dianne D. Mitchell Mr. & Mrs. Walter C. Ott

Herbert Dabney Maxwell, Sr.

Ms. Bertha C. McClelar **Dorothy Ellen McClur** Mr. & Mrs. David Denso nifer McCray Ms. Cynthia D. Davis Mrs. Merle N. McCurdy Mr. and Mrs. Bill Barbee Dr. & Mrs. R. B. Townes Jr. Mr. & Mrs. Hiram Davis Jr. Mr. Lewis McFadden Siloam Baptist Church Mrs. Waverly McIlwain Fern M. Lyter Wayne McWhorter Mrs. Ruth McIntire Mrs. Mary H. Sherwood Paul McManus **Ozion Baptist Church** Ruby Lee McNease Mr. & Mrs. Howard Bridges Stan Melvin Mr. & Mrs. Alton L. Fields Billy Metz Gina Michael **Taylors Air Conditioning & Nell McClellan Minert** Mrs. Jacqueline B. Fuqua Mr. J. R. Mitchell Mr. & Mrs. Terry Champion Jimmy Mobley

Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Halford Mrs. Sue Courts Mr. Jim Moore Mr. & Mrs. Donald Childs Mrs. Mildred Morgan Mrs. Beezy Johnson Mr. & Mrs. Philip Morgan Mrs. Dorothy W. Shaw Glen Moser Mr. & Mrs. William A. Switzer John Dan Moulder Mr. & Mrs. Frank Norsworthy

Mrs. Velma Myers Mrs. Helen Sullivan Mr. W. C. Nail Webster-Montgomery Christian Home Educators Robert Nail The Bill Curtis Family Mrs. Annie Mae Neely Mr. & Mrs. Frank W. Barrett Mr. & Mrs. J. M. Johnston Ms. Betty Jane Thomas Nichols Mary Jayne & Bill Whittington

Granddaughter of Mr. & Mrs. **George North** Mrs. Frances N. Allen Mrs. Wardine Oden Mr. & Mrs. Lamar Hataway Mrs. Waudine L. Oden Rev. & Mrs. Howard T. Scarborough Cecil & Nan Oliphan

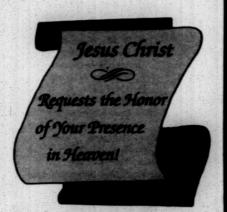
Mr. James L. Travis **Margaret Oliver** Ms. Martha R. Kirk Lawrence Owen Mr. & Mrs. James A. Kidd **Margaret Pace** Dr. & Mrs. David Lee Mr. Thomas Parnell Dr. & Mrs. James W. Lewis **Thomas Eugene Parnell** 

Mitch, Beth, Carlisle, Reaga Livingston Mrs. Bessie Bacon Welborn &

# Thank You!

The Baptist Children's Village wishes to express a heartfelt thank you to the Agri-Missions of Mississippi for providing catfish and vegetables for our residents all across the state.

Your generosity is greatly appreciated.



#### YOU CAN RESPOND RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

- 1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
- 2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
- 3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
- 4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name (John 1:12).

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

# Bibliocipher

copyright 2002

ZPX BC VZKX EPJH BCI, XZENBJCI, JBT YZKJB BZJB UZXC JBCC OBHQC NH SCZGC, ZPX OBHQC HY JBT SQZNEC.

UZIR YKFC: JBKIJT-YHEI

Clue: X = D

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Luke Twelve: Two.

# Homosexual ed criticized as 'exploitation'

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP) — A third-grade girl stands before a room full of classmates. The room is silent, and their attention is hers. For the past few minutes, the teacher has guided the students in a discussion about families. Families, they are told, are made up of all types of people. Gay and lesbian couples are one example of a family.

The girl, named Emily, is there to read an award-winning essay about her two moms. She begins, "My mothers mean so, so, so, so much to me. I have two mothers. Two moms is pretty nice. Well, it's more than pretty nice. It's really nice. You can't imag-ine. Although having two mothers is a problem to others, I respect that that's the way they think and I can't do anything about it. I still think that those people think stupidly.

"This once happened with a boy in my class who could not come to my house because my parents were lesbians. One night I called their house and the mother told me their version of the Bible. I stood up for my mothers and knew that many kids of my class were supporting me and calling me to see how I was. I am proud of my moms and enjoy marching in the gay pride march every single year with my moms."

The teacher compliments Emily on her essay, then leads the class in applause.

Although the above scene may be troubling to Southern Baptists, it's one that is becoming more and more common in America's schools, Southern Seminary students learned March 5 during a day-long presentation from Focus on the Family. A team from the Colorado-based ministry founded by psychologist James Dobson briefed the seminary community on current issues related to homosexuality, with an aim toward formulating a biblical response. Troubling video clips, including the one with Emily, which came from the gay education documentary "It's Elementary," were aired during a session led by Mike Haley, Focus on the Family's director of youth and gender studies, on gay activism within public schools.

"You can see the exploitation of a young life and how the children are being re-educated on the issue of family," Haley said about the documentary. "... They are teaching as simple fact that homosexuality is just as genetic as race."

Haley noted that the girl was not corrected for using "stupid-ly" to describe other children.

"I would hate to see what pidly," he said.

Haley said the activists have three goals: Normalizing homosexuality by desensitizing students. This can be done, he said, through the use of activist children's books such as "Heather Has Two Mommies" or "Daddy's Roommate." The latter book is the story of a boy whose parents are divorced. His father lives with a homosexual partner. The boy asks his mother what gay is, and she responds by saying, "Being gay is just another kind of love."

 Equating homosexuality to heterosexuality. Haley played another clip from "It's Elementary" in which a homosexual teacher told a gathering of young children,

HOMOSEXUALITY PROMOTED — School children would happen if any of our talk about homosexuality during a scene from the children in public schools activist documentary, "It's Elementary," produced by wrote that people who believe Women's Educational Media, a nonprofit film and video against Christianity think stu- production company. (BP photo)

some appearing to be as young as five, how great he felt when he told people he

was homosexual. Undermining parental moral authority. "This is where the school district is going to tell you as a Christian parent that they believe that they know what's best to teach your child," Haley said.

Christians must react to the gay activist with both anger and love, Haley said. "While watching this can incite a lot of anger in us, I'd like to caution you to remember that while you may become angry... I hope that you will do something productive with that anger."

## Speaker: Christians yawning at perversion

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP) — Christians voiced their outrage when ABC's "Ellen" featured a lead lesbian character in 1997. That outrage, five years later, has dissipated even though there are now more than 20 homosexual characters on television, lamented Focus on the Family's Mike Haley, who spoke at Southern Seminary March 5 during a day-long presentation for students.

The moral standard is being lowered in regards to issues of sexuality," said Haley, Focus on the Family's director of youth and gender studies. "... We're shrugging our shoulders at the issue of homosexuality."

Haley was part of a team from the Colorado-based ministry founded by psychologist James Dobson who briefed the seminary community on current issues related to homosexuality, with an aim toward for-

mulating a biblical response.
As an example of Christians being desensitized to the issue of homosexuality, he compared the fanfare surrounding ABC's Ellen and NBC's Will & Grace. Much controversy surrounded the "coming out" episode of Ellen in 1997. However, there was much less controversy when NBC's Will & Grace premiered in 1998

with a lead male gay character.
"While we had Ellen coming
out, saying, 'I'm gay, deal with
it,' now we have Will and Grace coming out saying, 'I'm gay, so what?"" he said.

Quoting statistics from the activist organization Gay and Alliance Against Lesbian Defamation that tracks the number of homosexual characters on television, Haley said there are 25 such characters on TV.

The shows featuring homosexual characters are NBC's ER, Providence, Will & Grace, and Friends; ABC's Spin City and NYPD Blue; CBS' Education of Max Bickford and The Ellen Show; FOX's Dark Angel and The Simpsons; and WB's Dawson's Creek, Buffy the Vampire Slayer, and Felicity.

"You can see how many of these shows are geared toward our youth," Haley said.

By putting such characters on television, the networks are trying to make homosexuality an accepted lifestyle in American society, he argued, quoting Eric McCormack

who is a heterosexual in real life but plays the gay character on Will & Grace - as saying, When old ladies out there say, 'Oh, I hope he meets a nice man,' that's when we'll know the show has succeeded."

Likewise, the national media has sided with gay activists by making Christian conservatives appear extreme, Haley said. The media does this, he said, by taking extremists such as Fred Phelps and tying them to men such as James Dobson. Phelps regularly leads members of his church around the country to picket gay rallies and funerals. There, they hold up signs that read "God Hates Fags

They take individuals like Fred Phelps, marry them together with individuals like Dr. Dobson, (Southern Seminary President) Al Mohler — those that are speaking out on the issue of homosexuality - and make [them] look bad," Haley said. "The media is doing a tremendous job of making those of us that believe that homosexuality is against God's original intent look as if we're hateful, homophobic, and bigoted."

Christians can do much to change the culture — including writing the networks and sponsors — but they must keep the issue in perspective, Haley said.
"We [must] never forget there

are lost souls on the other side of that issue that need the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ."



BIBLICAL RESPONSE — Southern Seminary students speak with Mike Haley who was part of a team from Focus on the Family briefing the seminary community on current issues related to homosexuality, with an aim toward formulating a biblical response. (Photo by David Merrifield)